

Wright Memorial Public Library Internet Use Policy

Background/Philosophy

Wright Memorial Public Library provides access to the Internet as an integral part of its mission.

The Internet is a worldwide computer network that provides access to a massive body of information. The resources available on the Internet expand the library's information resources well beyond traditional collections. In providing Internet access, Wright Library enhances its existing collection in size and depth.

Intellectual Freedom/Right to Privacy

Wright Memorial Public Library supports the First Amendment, intellectual freedom, and the Library Bill of Rights.

The same standards of intellectual freedom, privacy, and confidentiality endorsed by Wright Library for traditional resources and services also apply to electronic media, including the Internet. The library has a policy of open access to all parts of its collections, including access to the Internet.

The library seeks to protect the First Amendment rights of its patrons and their individual rights to privacy. However, Internet users must be sensitive to the fact that computers are in public areas and, therefore, images on the screen may be subject to view by a wide audience.

The computers owned and operated by the library are to be used for educational, informational, and recreational purposes only; they may not be used for unauthorized, illegal, or unethical purposes.

Disclaimers

The Internet offers access to information, ideas and commentary from around the world and a vast array of tools and resources for different age levels and points of view. However, not all sites on the Internet provide information that is accurate, complete, current, or legal. Wright Library does not endorse the viewpoints or vouch for the accuracy of information obtained through the Internet. The library has no control over the information accessed through the Internet and cannot be held responsible for its content. Some resources contain material that some patrons may find personally offensive or may consider inappropriate for children.

Wright Library Internet users are advised not to enter any sensitive personal or financial information such as bank account passwords and credit card numbers into these public computers. Wright Library is in no way responsible for the results of such actions.

Copyright

Materials obtained or copied on the Internet may be subject to laws that govern making reproductions of copyrighted works. Customers are responsible for compliance with all international, national and state laws governing copyrighted materials.

Use of the Internet by Children

Parents, guardians, and caregivers are responsible for their children's use of the Internet. Library staff does not control the sites that children may select on the Internet. Parents/guardians/caregivers are strongly encouraged to work with their children to develop acceptable rules of Internet use. Parents/guardians/caregivers and children are also encouraged to read Child Safety On the Information Highway, jointly produced by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children and the Interactive Services Association.

The Board of Trustees has chosen to install software on one clearly marked Internet computer in the Children's Department which is intended to filter sexually explicit content. No filtering software is perfect: no filter will block all offensive materials, and any filter will sometimes block useful and educational materials as well. Having a filtered computer available gives parents another choice for their children.

It is the parent or guardian who sets family standards and values and the library should not usurp that responsibility. We strongly recommend that parents/guardians work with their children when they are using the Internet.

Library patrons may address questions and concerns about the Internet Use Policy to the Director.

October 23, 2003