
BAYPORT PUBLIC LIBRARY **POLICY ON INTERNET USE**

Bayport Public Library/Washington County Library provides access to a variety of resources to meet the informational and recreational needs of individuals and the community. Access to the Internet is one of these resources.

Bayport Public Library/Washington county Library expects that individuals will use the Internet responsibly, obey local, state and federal laws and follow library policies and rules. Violators of laws or regulations may be subject to local, state or federal prosecution. Library access to the Internet may be denied for individuals who do not follow library policies and rules.

Responsibilities of Bayport Public Library/Washington County Library are to:

- Select electronic resources such as library catalogs, databases, indexes and Internet sites that appear on the Library web pages.
- Offer guidance in the use of these selected electronic resources; offer basic classes in the use of the Internet.
- In accordance with the federal Childrens Internet Protection Act (CIPA), use a technology protection measure on all workstations that provide access to the Internet to block or filter visual depictions that are obscene, child pornography or harmful to minors.

CIPA definitions of terms:

TECHNOLOGY PROTECTION MEASURE. The term “technology protection measure” means a specific technology that blocks or filters Internet access to visual depictions that are:

1. **OBSCENE**, as that term is defined in section 1460 of title 18, United States Code;
2. **CHILD PORNOGRAPHY**, as that term is defined in section 2256 of title 18, United States Code; or
3. Harmful to minors.

HARMFUL TO MINORS. The term “harmful to minors” means any picture, image, graphic image file, or other visual depiction that:

1. Taken as a whole and with respect to minors, appeals to a prurient interest in nudity, sex, or excretion;
2. Depicts, describes, or represents, in a patently offensive way with respect to what is suitable for minors, an actual or simulated sexual act or sexual contact, actual or simulated normal or perverted sexual acts, or a lewd exhibition of the genitals; and
3. Taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value as to minors.

SEXUAL ACT; SEXUAL CONTACT. The terms “sexual act” and “sexual contact” have the meanings given such terms in section 2246 of title 18, United States Code.

- In accordance with the federal Childrens Internet Protection Act (CIPA), disable the technology protection measure upon request of individuals age 17 and older. (Individuals must provide proof of age.)
- Suspend Internet access for individuals who do not follow library policies and rules.
- If demand for Internet access is high, set time limits, or restrict downloading of files.

It is NOT acceptable to use Bayport Public Library/Washington County Library Internet access to:

- Violate local, state or federal laws and regulations including those relating to obscenity, child pornography and materials harmful to minors.
- Display or print material that is obscene, child pornography or harmful to minors.
- Gain unauthorized access to resources or entities or to invade the privacy of other individuals.
- Engage in any activity that is deliberately offensive or creates a disruptive or hostile environment for other individuals or staff.
- Degrade or disrupt equipment or Library network performance.

Children's use of the Internet:

A child's use of the Internet in the library is the responsibility of that child's parent or guardian. Parents or guardians should develop family-based rules for their child's use of the Internet, including rules about sharing of personal information using e-mail, participating in chat lines, etc.

Bayport Public Library/Washington County Library follows the provisions of Minnesota Statutes, Section 13.40 relating to the privacy of library data. In addition, recessed monitors are used to provide privacy to individuals using the Internet in the library.

Bayport Public Library/Washington County Library recognizes that resources on the Internet may not be accurate or reliable; may be controversial and may offend some users. Only individual users can determine what is appropriate for them. The library has selected electronic resources such as library catalogs, databases, indexes and Internet sites that appear on the Library web pages. Resources available on the Internet change quickly and frequently. Inclusion of a site on the Library web pages does not constitute an endorsement, warranty or guarantee.

Bayport Public Library/Washington County Library assumes no responsibility for any damage, direct or indirect, that users or anyone else may suffer through accessing the Internet via Washington County Library. All users of Washington County Library Internet access assume all risk and agree to hold the Library harmless from any claims, losses, damages, obligations, or liabilities relating to:

- Infringement of U.S. Copyright Law (Title 17, United States Code).
- Use and/or accuracy of information obtained from the Library's catalog or web pages.
- Damage to non-library software or hardware, or loss of data resulting from use on the Library's network.

See Appendix B for a list of resources.

APPENDIX A – American Library Association’s LIBRARY BILL OF RIGHTS

The ALA Library Bill of Rights, which is reprinted here, can also be found at:

<http://www.ala.org/ala/oif/statementspols/statementsif/librarybillrights.htm>

Library Bill of Rights

The American Library Association affirms that all libraries are forums for information and ideas, and that the following basic policies should guide their services.

I. Books and other library resources should be provided for the interest, information, and enlightenment of all people of the community the library serves. Materials should not be excluded because of the origin, background, or views of those contributing to their creation.

II. Libraries should provide materials and information presenting all points of view on current and historical issues. Materials should not be proscribed or removed because of partisan or doctrinal disapproval.

III. Libraries should challenge censorship in the fulfillment of their responsibility to provide information and enlightenment.

IV. Libraries should cooperate with all persons and groups concerned with resisting abridgment of free expression and free access to ideas.

V. A person’s right to use a library should not be denied or abridged because of origin, age, background, or views.

VI. Libraries which make exhibit spaces and meeting rooms available to the public they serve should make such facilities available on an equitable basis, regardless of the beliefs or affiliations of individuals or groups requesting their use.

Adopted June 18, 1948, by the ALA Council; amended February 2, 1961; January 23, 1980; inclusion of “age” reaffirmed January 24, 1996

APPENDIX B – Children’s Internet Protection Act Resources.

WCL Internet Use Policy / Resources

Children’s Internet Protection Act (CIPA)

ALA Resources

<http://www.ala.org/Template.cfm?Section=cipa>

Minnesota Statutes 2003

Chapter 13.40 Library and historical data

<http://www.revisor.leg.state.mn.us/stats/13/40.html>

Chapter 134.50 Internet access; libraries

<http://www.revisor.leg.state.mn.us/stats/134/50.html>

Chapter 617.241 Obscene materials and performances; distribution and exhibition prohibited; penalty

<http://www.revisor.leg.state.mn.us/stats/617/241.html>

Chapter 617.291 Sexually explicit materials and exhibitions; purpose and policy of the legislature

<http://www.revisor.leg.state.mn.us/stats/617/291.html>

Chapter 617.292 Definitions

<http://www.revisor.leg.state.mn.us/stats/617/292.html>

Chapter 617.293 Harmful materials; dissemination and display to minors prohibited

<http://www.revisor.leg.state.mn.us/stats/617/293.html>

US Code

Title 17—US Copyright Law

<http://www.access.gpo.gov/uscode/title17/title17.html>

Title 18—Crimes and Criminal Procedure; Part I—Crimes

Chapter 71—Obscenity

http://www.access.gpo.gov/uscode/title18/parti_chapter71_.html

Chapter 109A—Sexual abuse

http://www.access.gpo.gov/uscode/title18/parti_chapter109a_.html

Chapter 110—Sexual exploitation and other abuse of children

http://www.access.gpo.gov/uscode/title18/parti_chapter110_.html

Other

Movie Day at the Supreme Court or “I know It When I See It”: a History of the Definition of Obscenity by Judith Silver

http://library.lp.findlaw.com/articles/file/00982/008860/title/Subject/topic/Communications_Obscenity/filename/communications_2_1742

Lawfully Surfing the Net: Disabling Public Library Internet Filters to Avoid More Lawsuits In the United States by May Minow

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