

Mount Clemens Public Library

Public Internet Use Policy

The mission of Mount Clemens Public Library is to anticipate and respond to the community's need for information, to facilitate lifelong learning, to stimulate and nurture a desire to read in young people, to provide reading materials to meet the interests of all ages, and to enrich the quality of life in the community. The Library accomplishes its goals by allocating its finite resources to those materials and facilities that provide serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value. It also accomplishes its goals by requiring customers to behave in a way that is conducive to reading and learning by the broadest spectrum of the public, including children under the age of eighteen.

The Library provides limited Internet access for its customers. Customers are advised to exercise critical judgment when using Internet information, realizing that its accuracy, completeness, and currency vary widely. The Library assumes no responsibility for any damages, direct or indirect, arising from use by any person of the Library's access to the Internet. The Library makes no guarantee, either expressed or implied, with respect to the quality or content of the information available on the Internet. Further, sexually explicit graphics might be displayed causing detrimental consequences including access to these materials by minors, accidental display of these materials to nonconsenting adults, sexual harassment of staff, and degradation of the Library as a place for adults and minors to read and to learn. The time taken for this detrimental use of the Library's Internet access necessarily reduces or precludes the time available for use that is consistent with the mission of the Library. In addition, the Library does not tolerate the sexual harassment of its customers or staff.

The Library finds these interests compelling. In thoughtful consideration, it addresses these issues by taking into account its interests in: allocating finite resources, providing reading and learning opportunities to the broadest spectrum of the public including minors, respecting its customers' freedom of inquiry, not displaying material that is harmful to minors, preventing degradation of the Library as a place for adults and minors to read and to learn, and maintaining a work environment free from sexual harassment. For these reasons and others, including legal requirements (such as the Children's Internet Protection Act - CIPA) and financial necessities, the Library has adopted this policy and a Technology Protection Measure (TPM) also known as filtering software. The filtering software determines the appropriateness of each web site request made by library computers. The determination is based on lists and other tools compiled by the producer of the filtering software with adjustments to the lists and tools made by the Library staff.

STAFF ASSISTANCE

Staff will assist library users in getting started on the Internet as time permits. The Library cannot, however, guarantee that Internet-trained staff will be available to assist users at all times the Library is open. The staff will not be able to offer extensive explanations about the Internet or personal computer use or provide in-depth training. When time permits, staff will try to answer specific, basic questions about the Internet and offer suggestions for effective searching. Staff can also provide information about Internet books and manuals.

Library staff are prohibited from assisting users with online purchases or financial transactions of any kind.

CHILDREN AND INTERNET ACCESS

As with any other material obtained by children using the Library, parents or legal guardians are responsible for the Internet information selected and/or accessed by their children. Internet terminals in the children's department are filtered at all times to protect minors from viewing harmful material. A parent or legal guardian may fill out a request for unfiltered access on behalf of a minor, but the parent or legal guardian must be present **AT THE TERMINAL** at all times when his/her child under the age of 18 is using an unfiltered Internet terminal at the Library. Parents and legal guardians are strongly encouraged to read the pamphlet "Child Safety on the Information Highway," copies of which are available at the Checkout Desk and Information Desks in both the Children's and Adult areas.

USE OF PUBLIC INTERNET TERMINAL

Any individual age 18 or older may use the adult Internet terminals at Mount Clemens Public Library. (For children, please see preceding paragraph). No more than one person may use the Internet terminal at any one time, and users must refrain from disturbing other library patrons with loud or boisterous conversation while at the terminal. The Internet terminal may be used for a period of 60 minutes (15 minutes for Express terminal). Only one 60-minute and one 15-minute session per person per day is permitted.

The Library installs privacy screens on its public Internet terminals for adults, which may not be removed by users.

As the Library is a public building serving people of all ages, Internet terminals in the Library are filtered to protect minors from viewing harmful material. **Any individual age 18 or older presenting identification that verifies that he/she is age 18 or older may request that filtering be suspended by completing a written request form.**

USE OF WIRELESS ACCESS

The Library offers wireless Internet access in most areas of the building. Library users may freely access the wireless system using their personal equipment. As with most public wireless "hot spots," the Library's wireless access point is unsecured; the responsibility for exercising due caution in transmitting personal data while connected to the Library's wireless network lies entirely with the user. Printing is not available through the Library's wireless connection. While accessing the Library's wireless connection, users must refrain from displaying obscene material, transmitting noise, or any other activity which may disrupt library operations.

PRINTING

Prints may be made for ten cents per page. Printing from the Internet terminal will be routed to a printer in the staff area. Users may request and pay for their prints at the Checkout Desk at the conclusion of the Internet session. Printing is not available from the Library's wireless connection. Due to occasional, unpredictable equipment problems, the Library cannot guarantee that the print function will always be available.

USER RESPONSIBILITIES

All users of the Internet at Mount Clemens Public Library, including wireless users, are required to use the service in a responsible, courteous and appropriate manner, consistent with the purposes for which the terminal is provided, and to follow the Library's Internet-related rules, regulations and procedures. Responsible, courteous and appropriate use of the Internet includes:

- Recognizing that the Internet, like all the Library's information sources, must be shared and used in a manner which respects the rights of others and refrains from activity that prevents others from using it. This means that time limits must be strictly observed.
- Refraining from illegal or unethical use of the Internet
- Refraining from accessing obscene material or material that is harmful to minors
- Refraining from using the Library's Internet resources to conduct a business or commercial enterprise, or engage in commercial activity such as the distribution of advertising.
- Respecting the privacy of others by not misrepresenting oneself as another user.

Because of network security considerations, users of the Library's Internet terminal **MUST NOT**:

- Use chat rooms or games
- Download data, software or files of any kind
- Damage or alter the setup of the equipment used to access the Internet at the Library
- Use or load personal software, or attach personal equipment to the Library' Internet terminal or connections
- Attempt to modify or gain access to files, passwords or data belonging to others
- Attempt disallowed access to any computer system via the Internet (hacking).
- Violate software licensing agreements or copyright laws

VIOLATORS OF PUBLIC INTERNET USE POLICY

An individual or individuals who violate any of the above rules and regulations may forfeit his/her right to use the Mount Clemens Public Library.

Internet users who fail to comply with library rules and procedures or refuse to follow the directions of staff with regard to computer use will forfeit the balance of his/her Internet session and will be asked to leave the library for the day. ***A repeat violator will have his/her library privileges suspended for a period of thirty days. A third violation will result in permanent exclusion from the library.***

Illegal acts involving the Library's Internet/computing resources will be reported to the Macomb County Sheriff's Department and/or appropriate state or federal authorities for possible prosecution.

Any individual whose privileges at Mount Clemens Public Library have been suspended by the Library Director for a period of more than 30 days may request a hearing before the Mount Clemens Public Library Board of Trustees to appeal for reinstatement of library privileges.

*Approved by Mount Clemens Public Library Board of Trustees
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