

The Nyack Library

Internet Use Policy

Use of the Internet is available, free of charge, for Nyack Library and RCLS library card holders. The Nyack Library assumes no responsibility for any damages, direct or indirect, arising from connection to the Internet; makes no guarantees, either expressed or implied, with respect to the quality or content of the information available on the Internet; and cannot monitor, control, sanction or endorse the contents of material, which can change rapidly on the Internet. The Reference librarians will be happy to offer sources for evaluating effective sites. Bookmarks to informational, cultural, educational and recreational sites are set for easy access.

The Library cannot provide assurance that Internet users will have privacy in the materials or communications undertaken via the Internet.

Prohibited usage: Users are not permitted to modify the installed hardware or software. Users must obey all federal, state and local laws in the use of the Internet and must respect the legal protections to data and software provided by copyright and license. Users may not misrepresent themselves or use the Library's computers to make unauthorized entry into any other computer or network.

Community Standards: The Internet is an unregulated medium. The Library cannot control or monitor all of the material accessible via the Internet. It is possible that individuals might access information they personally find offensive or disturbing. Individuals must accept responsibility for determining the suitability of content for themselves and their children. The display of potentially offensive graphics is inappropriate for a public and open environment and is prohibited. The librarian's discretion and judgment will determine appropriate use.

Internet Safety: The Library attempts to balance every individual's right to freedom of access to information with the safety of children and people of all ages. We offer both filtered and unfiltered Internet computers in the Library.

Filtered Internet stations are provided for those who prefer them and for all children under the age of 18, but the Library cannot guarantee the effectiveness of the filtering program.

Individuals may be exposed to inappropriate materials when using the Web, E-mail, Chat rooms and other forms of Internet communication.

Children should never disclose personal identification information over the Internet. Parents have the responsibility to discuss the use of the Internet with their children in relation to family values and boundaries, and to monitor their children's use of the Internet.

Children's use of the Internet: Parents or legal guardians are responsible for their children's use of the Internet. Children below the sixth grade are only permitted to use the Internet in the Computer Resource Center with a parent or legal guardian; these children may use the special Internet resources available in the Children's Room. Children under the age of 8 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian in order to use any Internet terminal. Parents have the option of providing the Library with permission for their children to use the unfiltered Internet stations. Children who use the Internet unsupervised may be exposed to material their parents/guardians find inappropriate or disturbing.

Staff assistance: All users must have basic computer skills, including the ability to use a mouse, Windows, and an Internet Browser. The Library staff may be able to assist customers with some Internet functions, but Library staff cannot offer extensive instructions/explanations about the Internet or personal computer use. Orientation sessions will be available.

Affirmation of Principles and Users Rights: Access to the Internet is compatible with the Library's

endorsement of the Library *Bill of Rights*, the *Freedom to Read*, and the *Freedom to View* statements and with the policies, goals and objectives of this Library. The Library affirms the following principles and users rights as stated in the American Library Association's Access to Electronic Information and Network:

- Electronic information, services and networks provided by libraries should be readily, equally, and equitably available to all library users.
- Libraries and librarians should not deny or limit access to information available via electronic resources because of its controversial content or because of personal beliefs or fears of confrontation.
- Information retrieved or utilized electronically should be considered constitutionally protected unless determined otherwise by a court with appropriate jurisdiction.
- Ultimately, responsibility for any restrictions, of a child's use of the Internet rests solely with his or her parents or legal guardians.

Loss of Privileges: It is not acceptable to use the Nyack Library's Internet for purposes contrary to state or federal laws or so to interfere with or disrupt other users, services or equipment. Such activities will result in the suspension of Internet privileges and may result in criminal prosecution.

Use of the Library's Internet connection is intended for private, non-commercial activities. Sales or marketing of products or services is not permitted.

Information and resources available through the Library's Internet connections are private to the individuals or organizations that own or hold rights to them, unless these owners or holders of rights specifically state otherwise. It is important to respect the legal protection by copyright and licenses to program and data.

Computer Resource Center Procedures

Requirements:

All users must accept the Internet Use Agreement prior to using the Internet.

Parental consent for the use of the unfiltered Internet is required for all children and young adults under the age of 18.

Hours of use of the Computer Resource Center:

Opening will occur at the normal opening schedule of the Library, and will end 15 minutes before closing time for shut down procedures.

Reservations and Allowances:

Customers are permitted to use the Word Processor and the Internet for one hour per session, 2 sessions per day. Other adjustments will be at the discretion of the staff, depending on availability of computers.

The Library cannot be responsible for connectivity difficulties. If the connection is not made, every effort will be made to reschedule an appointment at a later time.

Usually one individual will be allowed at a terminal at a time. A maximum of two customers may use selected stations, as assigned by staff.

The Library cannot honor requests for preferred seating.

Printing Charges:

The fee for printing in black is 10¢ per page and in color 50¢ per page. For children and young adults residing in the Nyack School District: the Word Processor printing fee in black is waived and the charge for printing in color is 15¢ per page.

Use of the Internet in the Reference Department and the Children's Room will follow procedures established in each department.

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