Eastern Shore Public Library
Internet Policy

The Internet, a global network of computers, provides access to a multitude of educational, recreational, and reference sources, many of which are not available in print at even the largest research libraries. This resource supplements and complements the collections of the Eastern Shore Public Library and provides our rural population in a small corner of Virginia with access to electronic treasures all over the world.

However, we cannot ensure the availability or the accuracy of external electronic resources. Like print materials, not all electronic materials provide accurate, complete, or current information. Some Internet sites contain controversial, offensive, indecent, and obscene material. The Library cannot protect persons from information found individually offensive. The Library will, however, make a reasonable effort to prevent the viewing of obscenity.

In compliance with Section 42.1-36.1 of the Code of Virginia, the Eastern Shore Public Library has installed blocking software on its public access computers. The purpose of this software is to protect minors from exposure to internet sites that are deemed to be obscene, pornographic, or harmful to children. Under Virginia state law, Library staff can unblock individual websites that have been erroneously blocked by the filter. In addition, Library staff may disable the filter at the request of a patron to enable access for bona fide research or other lawful purposes.

Unlike the privacy protection you are guaranteed when you borrow print materials, your use of the Internet computers is subject to staff and public monitoring. There is no right of privacy when using the public Internet computers.

Library staff cannot provide in-depth training on Internet operations or personal computer skills, except during pre-scheduled computer classes. However, our staff will attempt, time permitting, to offer search suggestions and answer questions. Also, computers, printers,

telecommunications lines, etc., are subject to breakdown. Staff cannot guarantee your access to the Internet.

In order to ensure fair and proper use of the Library's computing resources, patrons are responsible for abiding by the following rules. Use of the Internet computers is a privilege, not a right. If patrons fail to comply with the rules, access to Library computing resources may be suspended. The Library reserves the right to terminate an internet session if the following rules are violated.

Internet Rules

All copyright and communication laws must be obeyed.

Patrons may not view, send, receive, or download illegal material; use any library workstation for illegal or criminal purposes; or represent themselves as another person for purposes of fraud or other illegal activity.

Patrons may not view inappropriate materials, defined as text or graphics which may reasonably be construed as obscene.

Patrons may not use the library's workstations as a staging ground to gain unauthorized access to the library's networks or computer systems or to any other network or computer system.

Users may not load their own software to library computers.

Patrons may not change **ANY** settings on the Internet browser without permission.

Patrons may not make any attempt to damage computer equipment or software or make any attempt to alter software configurations.

Rules for use:

Access: Please sign in at the circulation desk. Anyone wishing to have access to the Internet must present his or her own valid, <mark>non-hard-blocked</mark> library card and leave it with a staff member for the duration of the session. Nonresidents must present a picture ID (drivers license or other government issued ID). Nonresident minors must show proof of age.

Users Under 18: Children age 9 and under will be permitted to use an Internet computer only if accompanied by an adult 18 years or older. Minors 10 to 17 may use an Internet computer by themselves only if a parent or guardian has come to the library and signed the Internet Use Agreement for Minors.

Time Limits: Users are limited to 30 minutes (including printing time) at each session if all Internet workstations are in use. If a computer is available after 30 minutes of use, a patron may continue to use a computer until it is needed by another patron.

Crowding at Internet Terminal: There is a limit of two people per workstation (with the exception of an adult working with children).

Ending Session: Users must end their Internet sessions by returning to the homepage.

Saving Work: Patrons must use their own disks or devises when saving information.   Any data left on a computer's hard drive will be deleted. Pre-formatted disks are available at the Circulation Desk for $1.00 each.

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