

## WAUKESHA PUBLIC LIBRARY

### POLICY: **INTERNET ACCESS POLICY**

Approved by Library Board: 4/13/23

Number: A-7

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The Library is responsible only for the information on its home page, its social media accounts, and the Waukesha Reads website. The Library has limited control over the information that is accessible through other sites on the Web. In choosing and using Web sources, patrons should evaluate them just as they do print sources, questioning the accuracy and completeness of the information.

The Library's public access computers use filtering software that blocks access to certain sites. This is done in an attempt to make the Web content that is accessed at the Library most closely approximate the types of materials that are selected for the Library's collection. Since the library does not promote particular beliefs or views, the electronic resources, along with the rest of the collection, will contain various positions on important questions, including unpopular or unorthodox positions

Patrons should be aware that no filtering software is totally effective. A patron may request that staff re-evaluate access to a specific site if he or she disagrees with the filtering software's handling of that site. Responsibility for choosing what a patron will read or view rests with the patron. Responsibility for the use of the Web by children and young adults, as with other library materials, rests with their parents or legal guardians. Parents are encouraged to discuss with their children appropriate use of Web resources and to supervise their children's Web sessions.

The primary purpose of the Library's public access computers is to supplement and extend its print, non-print, and electronic collections of information materials. They are not intended to be used for any activities that do not correspond to the Library's mission and vision. The Library staff may impose procedural restrictions, such as time limits and sign-ups, on the use of Library public access computers in order to insure more equitable sharing of computers. While respecting an individual patron's right to privacy whenever possible, staff have the right to monitor use of public access computers to ensure compliance with this policy.

Inappropriate use of information technology resources may result in revocation of privileges. Uses that are prohibited include, but are not limited to:

1. Accessing information resources or altering data without the explicit authorization of the Library;
2. Intentionally deleting or damaging files or introducing viruses;
3. Illegal activities as defined in accordance with State and Federal law or local ordinances;
4. Wagering, betting or selling chances;

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5. Transmitting defamatory, discriminatory, threatening, abusive, obscene, lewd, profane or harassing material or material that suggests any lewd or lascivious act;
6. Viewing, reading, or accessing any sexually explicit sites or material that are in any way sexually revealing, sexually suggestive, sexually demeaning or pornographic except when such access is required by job duties and approved by management;
7. Solicitation;
8. Attempts to evade, disable, or bypass any security provisions of systems or the network.

Copyright law prohibits the unauthorized reproduction or distribution of copyrighted materials, except as permitted by the principles of fair use. Any responsibility for consequences arising from copyright infringement or any other illegal use lies with the patron.

The Waukesha Public Library assumes no responsibility for any damages, direct or indirect, arising from the use of its public access computers and Internet connection. The Waukesha Public Library assumes no responsibility for any loss or damage to patron's data or devices, nor for any personal damage or injury incurred as a result of using the Waukesha Public Library's public access computers. This includes damage or injury sustained from invasions of the customer's privacy.

Patrons should also be aware that the provisions of the above policy, including filtering and unacceptable use provisions also apply to access to the Internet via library-supplied wireless connection.