

Effective Date: May 1997

Internet Use & Safety Policy

The Seymour Library provides access to a broad range of information through books and a variety of other formats to meet the informational, educational, cultural and recreational needs of our community. The Internet is an integral part of the resources used to assist Library users in finding the information they need.

The Internet is a global electronic network. The Library does not monitor Internet use, has no control over the information accessed through the Internet, and cannot be held responsible for its content. Some of the content on the Internet may be offensive, illegal, out-of-date, or erroneous. It is the responsibility of the user to determine what materials are appropriate and suitable.

The Library complies with the federal Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA), which requires the use of filtering software for adults, teens, and children. Filtering software may not block all material users might find offensive. As with all Library resources, Internet use by a minor is the responsibility of the parent/legal guardian. The Library does not have the right or the responsibility to act in *loco parentis*. Parents should inform their children of materials they do not want them to use, and may wish to supervise their children's Internet sessions. To help protect their children's safety, the Library encourages parents and children to discuss the child's use of email, online chat, and disclosure of personal information over the Internet.

The Library is not responsible for any liability that may occur as a result of the disclosure of financial or other personal information over its public computer services. Use of public computers is not a secure medium and third parties may be able to obtain information regarding users' activities.

Library staff will not provide in-depth computer training but will answer questions and, as time permits, help users locate and use resources on the Internet or on other electronic resources in the Library.

Guidelines:

- Users must respect copyright laws and licensing agreements and assume responsibility for payments of fees for any fee-based service.
- Access to Internet workstations is available to users with their own MCLS Library card or a guest pass. Time limits are established to provide the opportunity for the maximum number of people to access the Internet workstations. If circumstances permit, additional time may be granted upon request.
- A USB-ready memory device or CD-R disk is required to save your work.
- The Library is not responsible for time or data lost due to computer failure
- The Library reserves the right to terminate an Internet session at any time.

Users may not:

- Use any Library workstation for any illegal activity or criminal purpose, or to upload/post any material related to any illegal activity.
- Use any Library workstation to gain unauthorized access to the Library's networks or computer systems or to any other network or computer system.

- Engage in any activity, which is deliberately and maliciously offensive, libelous or slanderous.
- Represent yourself as another person for purposes of fraud or other illegal activity.
- Invade the privacy of others or engage in any activity that is harassing, defamatory, or threatening; or receive or display graphics, which may reasonably be construed as obscene as defined by law.
- Obstruct the work of others by consuming gratuitously large amounts of system resources or by deliberately crashing any Library computer system.
- Display images, sounds, or messages in a way that will negatively affect those who find them objectionable, offensive or disruptive.
- Make any attempt to damage computer equipment or software.
- Make any attempt to alter software configurations in a malicious manner.
- Make any attempt to cause degradation of system performance.

Adopted: May 1997

Revised: June 2017, June 2004, May 2004

Reviewed: