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Internet Usage Policy

Purpose
Mead Public Library provides free public access to Internet resources in fulfillment of its mission to provide collections and services designed to meet the educational and recreational needs of the community, regardless of age or formal schooling. As part of that mission, and in compliance with the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) and the Neighborhood Children's Internet Protection Act (NCIPA), the Library gives special attention to Internet safety through the use of content filters that help protect the privacy and personal safety of minor children and prevent, when reasonably possible, exposure to online content generally considered harmful to minors or otherwise inappropriate. This Policy also addresses illegal practices, such as unauthorized access ("hacking") and other unlawful activity online.

Ethical Use
Mead Public Library requires that all use of the Internet be responsible, ethical, legal, and consistent with the purpose for which these resources are provided. Such use includes:

- Using resources for lawful purposes, including informational, educational, recreational, and personal business use, and not for unauthorized, illegal, or unethical purposes.
- Respecting the privacy of others by not misrepresenting oneself as another user; by not attempting to modify or gain access to files, passwords, or data belonging to the Library or others; by not seeking unauthorized access to any computer system; and by not damaging or altering software components of any network or database.
- Making only authorized copies of copyrighted or licensed software or data.
- Not making changes to the setup or configuration of the software or hardware provided by Mead Public Library.
- Not installing or downloading software on Library workstations. Patrons may save files to the local hard drive or personal removable media (USB drives, etc.) at their own risk.
- Respecting other patrons by not interfering with their use of public workstations.

Protection of Patrons
As with other Library services and materials, monitoring of a minor child's access to the Internet is the responsibility of that child's parent or legal guardian. In general, children use the resources housed in the Landwehr Children's Library Center until they are entering sixth grade. Older children use the resources in other areas of the building. Parents or legal guardians of children under age 16 may also request that their child not be permitted to use Library computers.

In compliance with CIPA, the Library uses content filtering on all public Internet access to prevent the display of obscene content, child pornography, and material harmful to minors. The level of filtering applied is based on age: lighter filtering for adults, moderate filtering for teens, and the most restrictive filtering for children,

including workstations in the Landwehr Children's Library Center. However, filtering cannot guarantee that all inappropriate or offensive material will be blocked.

Patrons may request that a blocked page be unblocked. Library staff — including librarians, managers, IT staff, and the Library Director — may apply a temporary override ~~during use by an adult, for bona fide research or other lawful purpose~~ for an adult patron's bona fide research or other lawful purpose, when the request is time-sensitive and the site is deemed appropriate by staff.

The unauthorized disclosure, use, or dissemination of personal identifying information regarding minors online is prohibited. Parents and guardians are encouraged to monitor their children's online interactions and to review privacy settings on websites and applications minors may access at the Library. Minors should not share personal information through email, chat, social media, or other direct electronic communications.

Adoption

The Library Board of Trustees has adopted this Internet Usage Policy following reasonable public notice and a public hearing, as required by CIPA. This Policy is subject to change; significant changes will be posted on the Library's website following the same public notice and hearing process. This Policy is maintained by the Director or designee, who ensures that the current version is available to the public in print and online.