

Mastics-Moriches-Shirley Community Library

Internet Acceptable Use Guidelines

Welcome to the Mastics-Moriches-Shirley Community Library's Internet Access. The Internet is a global collection of computer networks that connects thousands of users all over the world. Access to the Internet provides the users with a vast amount of information available through these connections. Though the Internet is perhaps the most advanced and broadest source of information, like all other library provided sources and services, its use is subject to Library policy and guidelines.

Disclaimer

While the Library offers suggestions to a wide range of useful and interesting sites through its home page, all Internet sites are accessible through the Library's Internet provider. This allows access to ideas, information and commentary from around the globe and a vast array of tools and resources for different age levels and points-of-view, some of which may contain inaccurate, controversial and even offensive material. The Internet is an unregulated, ungoverned fluid source of information that is constantly changing. The Library does not endorse the viewpoints or vouch for the accuracy of information obtained through the Internet. Selection policies which serve to govern the Library's purchase of materials are not applicable to materials accessed electronically. The Library has no control over the information accessed through the Internet and cannot be held responsible for its content. We firmly believe that the valuable information and interactions available on this worldwide network far outweigh the possibility of access to materials not consistent with Library goals.

Acceptable Use

- All users of electronic information resources such as the Internet are expected to use these resources in a responsible manner, consistent with the educational, informational and recreational purposes for which they are provided.
- Responsible, ethical, use of Internet resources includes the following:
- Using resources for educational, informational and recreational purposes only, 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 others; by not seeking unauthorized access to any computer system, or damaging or altering software components of any network or database.

- Further respecting the privacy of others using public access workstations by not interfering with their use.
- Saving information only to a USB drive or by printing it out according to the fee schedule posted.
- Printing of multiple copies of large files is prohibited. Copy machines are available for this purpose.
- Downloading (bringing information and/or programs from a remote computer's hard drive to a library computer's hard drive) is not permissible.
- Leaving the computer (screen and hard drive) exactly as you found it.
- Being sensitive to the fact that the Internet access stations are in a public location subject to view by a wide audience.
- Not sending, receiving or displaying text or graphics which may reasonably be construed as obscene, sexually explicit, or demeaning to any race, ethnic background, religion, disability, gender or life style.

Access by Minors

In accordance with the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA), the Library utilizes filtering software to block access to some Internet sites on the Library's public computers. Parents or legal guardians must assume responsibility for deciding which library resources are appropriate for their own children. It is not possible for staff to control specific information children may locate on the Internet. Monitoring or restriction of a child's access to the wireless connection is the sole responsibility of the parent/guardian.

If it is apparent that acceptable use guidelines are not being followed, librarians will intervene. It is not possible, however, for library staff to monitor all use. We cannot guarantee inappropriate sites will never be accessed by children and youth. We recommend that parents take an active interest in, and responsibility for their children's online use.

Assistance

Library staff will assist patrons with Internet use as time permits, but cannot offer personal instruction. Our Digital Services Department can offer one-on-one help with technology learning by prior appointment.

Time Limits

Internet use may be limited to prescribed lengths of time to provide greater access for all patrons.

Violation of Guidelines

Misuse or abuse of this computer or Internet access may result in suspension of Internet access privileges. Persons using this equipment agree not to make any changes to the setup or configuration of the software or hardware. Violations of the letter and/or spirit of these guidelines may result in the suspension of Internet privileges. Violations of laws governing Internet use may result in criminal prosecution.

Approved by the Board of Trustees November 22, 2021