

York County Library System Electronic Resources Policy

Our Mission

We are the York County Library System, an association of 13 community libraries working together to serve the people of York County.

Our mission is to provide the best possible library and information services to all our residents.

Our goals in support of our mission include providing electronic access to information in a variety of formats. Working together, we choose the most appropriate technology for each library situation. We believe in the power of technology to deliver information to our users and we engage in a continuing search for its most effective use.

Why access is being provided

The Library is pleased to offer its customers access to the wealth of information on the Internet because it greatly expands the Library's ability to accomplish its mission. With its vast, timely, and diverse resources, the Internet supplements existing library collections.

It is the Library's mission to serve the entire community. Not all have access to the Internet by another means. The Library may be their only source for this valuable tool.

Because the public library provides a unique Internet learning opportunity, staff is available to assist customers in learning to use this tool.

The Nature of the Internet

The Internet is a global network of computer networks containing vast amounts of information. That information reflects a great diversity of interests and opinions.

The Internet is not under one governing body. Each site controls its own content. The Internet is a reflection of society. Whatever exists in the real world, exists on the Internet. Since the Internet is an unregulated medium, it enables access to materials that are personally, professionally, and culturally enriching to individuals of all ages, as well as materials that some may find offensive or disturbing. The Library cannot control any of the resources. The Internet enables access to ideas, information, images and commentary beyond the scope of the Library's selection criteria and collection development policies.

The Library cannot protect customers from information that they may find offensive. Each individual user must accept responsibility for what is accessed.

Internet access to the Library is provided in accordance with the Library's adoption of the Library Bill of Rights and the American Library Association's Interpretations of the Library Bill of Rights as it applies to access to Electronic Information, Services and Networks. In support of the Freedom to Read and the Universal Right to Free Expression, Internet resources accessible through the Library are provided equally to all library users, regardless of ages. As with other library materials, parents or guardians, not the library or its staff, are responsible for monitoring their children's selection of information the Internet. Parents and only parents may restrict their children and only their children from accessing Internet

resources via the Library's connection. We suggest that parents who are concerned about the types of materials available on the Internet supervise their children's Internet sessions.

Responsible Use

Customers have an obligation to use their access to the Internet in a responsible and informed way, conforming to network etiquette, customs and courtesies. Because the Internet encompasses many interconnected networks and computer systems, each system has its own rules and limitations. Guests on these systems have an obligation to learn and abide by the rules. Responsible use of the Internet includes the following:

1. Minors are not permitted to view explicit sexual materials as defined in **18 Pa.C.S. 5903**.
2. 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 or hardware components.
3. Respecting the privacy of others using public access workstations by not interfering with their use.
4. Obeying copyright laws.

Examples of irresponsible use include (but are not limited to):

1. Use of the Internet for unlawful activities.
2. Damaging computers, printers, software or data.
3. Using another customer's password or account.
4. Trespassing in another customer's password or account.
5. Violating copyright laws.

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