

WARNING:

Users should be aware that the inappropriate use of electronic information resources can be a violation of local, state, and federal laws and can lead to prosecution. The user will be held responsible for his/her actions using the Internet. Users are expected to abide by the policies below which include generally accepted rules of network etiquette.

All users of electronic information resources such as the Internet are expected to use these resources in a responsible manner, consistent with the education and information purpose for which they are provided and to follow these rules and regulations.

Users are cautioned that the accuracy, completeness and currency of information found on the Internet varies widely.

Inappropriate and/or unacceptable uses of the service will result in the suspension or revocation of Internet use privileges.

TIME LIMITS

Internet access is limited to one-hour intervals when others are waiting. Sign in at the Reference Desk. Identification is required.

LEGAL USE

The public and staff may use computing resources for legal purposes only. Examples of illegal or unacceptable activities include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Harassment of, libeling or slandering other users;
- Destruction of or damage to equipment, software, or data belonging to the Library or other users; disruption or unauthorized monitoring of electronic communication.
- Violating sexual harassment laws or local obscenity ordinances. It is against the law to expose children to adult sites and/or pornography¹. The library is a public place, children are everywhere.
- Violation of copyright laws and all other applicable laws and regulations.

LIBRARY RULES:

Computing resources should be used in accordance with the ethical standards of the library. Examples of unacceptable use (some may have legal consequences) include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Using resources for unauthorized, illegal or unethical purposes.
- Visiting adult or pornographic Internet sites is *not* consistent with the education and information purpose of the library. Visiting such sites will result in the suspension or revocation of Internet use privileges. In some cases, the police will be notified.
- Violation of computer systems security.
- Sending, receiving, or displaying text or graphics, which may reasonably be construed as obscene, or inappropriate for young children.

- Unauthorized use of computer accounts, access codes, or network identification numbers assigned to others, or any other violation of another user's privacy.
- Use of computer communication facilities in ways that unnecessarily impede the computing activities of others (such as randomly initiating interactive email exchanges, overuse of interactive network utilities and so forth);
- Violation of software license agreements, or network usage policies and regulations.

CHILDREN

- People under the age of 18 should have parental permission to use the Internet. It is not possible for library staff to monitor children or to control specific information children and youth may locate on the Internet. As with other library materials, restriction of a child's access to the Internet ultimately rests with the parent or legal guardian. For more information on children and the Internet, see Child Safety on the Information Highway produced by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children and Interactive Service Organization.

DISCLAIMER

The Portage County Public Library:

- Assumes no responsibility for damages, direct or indirect, to a user's computer, disks, or files arising from the use of the library's computers or the library's Internet connection.
- Does not endorse the viewpoints of written material found in print or in electronic format. The library's selection policies cannot be applied to material accessed electronically. The user (or parent, guardian or caregiver) must determine the authenticity of material accessed.
- Assumes no responsibility for use of the Internet by children.

LIBRARY'S RIGHTS RESERVED

- To terminate a user's session, without notice;
- To limit the amount of computer time at any one sitting.
- To erase any and all users' files stored on library equipment, without notice;
- To immediately suspend persons from computer use for violating these rules and regulations;
- To charge for computer printouts (generally \$.10 per printout, unless for in-house library use);
- To deny or limit access to computer operating systems, to limit the software available to users to library-owned resources, to deny the loading of user-provided software, and to bar access to any Internet site as required by law or library policy.

¹ Pornographic as defined by the US Supreme Court and this policy include patently offensive representations of intimate sexual acts, normal or perverted, actual or simulated, patently offensive representation or description of masturbation, excretory functions, and lewd exhibition of the genitals.