

POLICY ON PUBLIC USE OF THE INTERNET

To fulfill its mission of providing public access to information of all types in a wide range of formats, the East Meadow Public Library provides access to Internet resources. In doing so, the Library does not monitor and has no control over the information accessed through the Internet and assumes responsibility only for the information provided on its home pages.

The Internet offers access to many valuable local, national and international sources of information. However, some information found on the Internet may be inaccurate, incomplete, dated, or offensive to some individuals. A good information consumer must evaluate the validity and appropriateness of information found.

Choosing and Evaluating Sources

The Internet is a series of communication linkages leading to a highly diverse array of information content. Library patrons use it at their own risk. The Library does not limit access to materials or attempt to protect users from materials some individuals may find offensive. In choosing sources to link to its home pages, the Library follows its materials selection guidelines. Beyond this, the Library does not monitor or control information accessible through the Internet and is not responsible for its content, for changes in content of the sources to which the Library home pages link, or for the content of sources accessed through secondary links.

Access by Minors

Parents or legal guardians must assume responsibility for deciding what library resources are appropriate for their own children. Parents or legal guardians should guide their children in use of the Internet and inform them about materials they should not use.

Children under sixth grade will not be permitted to use the computers on the adult side unless accompanied by an adult. Computers are provided for their use in the Children's Department.

Rules Governing Use

Due to the limited resources available for provision of public access to the Internet, the Library may set limits, for example, on use of large files of still or moving images or sound, or on downloading files in any medium. The Library also reserves the right to limit the amount of time an individual user can devote to a single session.

Users may not:

- Use the network to make unauthorized entry into other computational, informational or communication services or resources.
- Distribute unsolicited advertising.
- Invade the privacy of others.
- Display material of an offensive sexual nature.

- Make any attempt to damage or disable computer equipment or software.
- Engage in any activity that is harassing or defamatory.
- Use the Internet for any illegal activity, including violation of copyright or other rights of third parties, or in a manner inconsistent with the Library's mission.

Violations may result in loss of privileges. Unlawful activities will be dealt with in an appropriate manner.

Wireless Connection

Wireless Internet access is available at the library to those patrons with the necessary hardware. Wireless users agree to abide by this Policy.

Public Users' Security

Users should be aware that the Internet is not a secure medium and that third parties may be able to obtain information regarding users' activities. However, the East Meadow Public Library will not release information on the use of specific Internet resources by members of the public except as required by law or necessary for the proper operation of the Library.

Compliance

The Library reserves the right to take appropriate action to ensure compliance with this policy.

American Library Association Statements

The East Meadow Public Library is guided by the following American Library Association statements on access to information:

- The Library Bill of Rights
- Freedom to Read Statement
- Freedom to View Statement
- Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights: Free Access to Libraries for Minors and Access to Electronic Information Services and Resources

This policy may be revised from time to time.