

Fort Dodge Public Library

Internet Access and Use

Purpose

Fort Dodge Public Library recognizes that Internet access is a necessity of modern life. It is critical to accessing information, participating in work and educational opportunities, maintaining social relationships, and sharing in cultural and leisure activities. The library is committed to offering fast, reliable Internet to its patrons.

Libraries are a traditional forum for the open exchange of information. Providing access to information available on the Internet does not constitute endorsement of the content by the library. Fort Dodge Public Library expressly disclaims any liability or responsibility arising from access to or use of information obtained through the Internet.

General Policies

Public Internet access is provided at public access computers, through wireless and wired network connections throughout the building. Internet users are expected to comply with Fort Dodge Public Library's Computer Use policy as well as all other policies and procedures.

While the Fort Dodge Public Library values free and equal access to information, it does use filtering software in its attempt to balance its commitment to patrons' diverse interests and individual rights with the need to provide a welcoming and comfortable environment for all ages. The library's filtering software blocks sites that depict pornography. However, no filtering software is totally accurate, nor is it a substitute for parental judgement and oversight.

Filtering software is deployed for wired and wireless Internet access.

The filter on the library's public access computers can be turned off by staff. The filter will be disabled only if the blocked site is appropriate for viewing in a public space.

Library staff members may request that individuals cease to view or listen to works that threaten the safe and comfortable environment of the library or that interfere with the conduct of library business.

As with other library materials, individuals must accept responsibility for evaluating the content of resources they view, read, or listen to.

Monitoring or restricting a child's access to the Internet is the responsibility of the parent or legal guardian. The library is not responsible for enforcing any restrictions which a parent or guardian may place on a minor's use of this resource.

Patrons handling financial transactions or other activities that require confidentiality do so at their own risk. The Internet is not a private environment and security of electronic communication cannot be guaranteed.

Individuals are expected to respect the sensibilities of others when accessing images that may reasonably be offensive to someone else. Privacy while using the Internet in the library cannot be guaranteed. There exists a possibility of inadvertent viewing by others.

Each user is responsible for complying with copyright law and adhering to software licensing agreements, as well as all local, state, and federal laws, including, but not limited to, those concerning fraud, privacy and obscenity. Use of the library's Internet connection in an illegal, disruptive, or destructive manner may result in suspension or loss of Internet or library privileges.

Security for personal wireless devices rests solely with the owner. The library is not responsible for any damage incurred to an individual's personal device or laptop or for any loss of data, damage, or liability that may occur from use of the library's Internet services.

Library staff members may provide guidance for accessing library materials and services with privately-owned devices, but they do not provide technical support.

Adopted 01/24/2001
Revised 10/25/2004
Revised 10/24/2011
Revised 01/26/2015
Revised 10/23/2017
Revised 07/27/2021
Revised 02/27/2023