

BROWNSTOWN PUBLIC LIBRARY

Operational Policy

Internet Use and Access

703

The Internet system is an information resource that enables the library to provide a variety of materials beyond the confines of its own collection. Use of the Internet access makes available ideas, materials and diverse opinions from around the world. Although unregulated, the Internet access offers a wealth of data that may be personally, professionally and even culturally enriching to users of all ages. The Internet also enables access to some material that may be considered offensive and illegal.

Providing the Internet as an additional information resource, the intent of the Board shall be to enlarge, enhance and extend the existing materials of the library to provide any user the opportunity to navigate the Internet. Therefore, use of the Internet access shall be provided solely for legal or ethical purpose. The use of the Internet to engage in any activity, which constitutes violation of local, state, and/or federal laws, is strictly prohibited.

It shall be understood by users of the Internet that the information available is not generated by the Brownstown Public Library. Information available through the Internet is not warranted by the Brownstown Public Library to be accurate, authoritative, factual, or complete. The availability of the information via the Brownstown Public Library does not constitute any endorsement or ratification of that information. The Brownstown Public Library is not responsible for the content of information available through the Internet.

All users of this service agree to hold the Brownstown Public Library harmless from any and all claims, losses, damages, obligations, or liabilities directly or indirectly relating to the use of the Internet, caused thereby or arising there from. In no event shall the Brownstown Public Library be held liable for lost profits or for special, indirect, punitive, or consequential damages or liability to any third party, even if the Brownstown Public Library is advised of the possibility of potential damages.

Staff may assist with Internet use only as time permits and, due to the scheduling constraints, trained staff may not be on duty at all times. Because of the many different Internet applications available, the Brownstown Public Library may not be able to provide complete technical support to the users.

Internet users agree to follow the adopted rules and regulations for Computer Use (Policy 702), and the following adopted rules and regulations for Internet Use and Access, including:

1. Internet use may be made available to any adult or those persons 18 years or older.
2. Minors under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a parent/adult guardian or must have a signed Internet parental/adult guardian permission slip approving use of the Internet without restriction except library rules and regulations. All authorization cards will be kept on file at the circulation desk. If a parent/adult guardian has stated that the minor is not allowed to use the Internet, the patron Internet Access Level status should be set to No Access.
3. The library does not offer electronic mail service. Computer users may make use of web-based E-mail (electronic mail).
4. Staff may direct the removal of images from the screen that may prove objectionable to others. Sending, receiving or displaying text or graphics, which may be construed as objectionable to others, is prohibited.
5. Users are advised the Library's connections to the Internet may be temporarily unavailable due to technical difficulties.

6. Illegal activity violating local, state, and/or federal laws, commercial activity, political lobbying, and disrupting the use of the Internet by others is prohibited. All users of the computer and Internet assume personal responsibility for lawful and correct operation.
7. Violation of the established rules and regulations may result in an immediate call to police requesting assistance and immediate suspension of library privileges for one year. Users found tampering or playing in the operating system, altering hardware, or attempting to cause harm to library equipment will have their privileges revoked and will be charged for any damages caused. Reinstatement of revoked privileges will be at the discretion of the library director.

Liability Limits

1. All Brownstown Public Library computer systems are filtered to protect against access to obscenity, child pornography, and sexually explicit graphical materials as required by the Children's Internet Protection Act of 2001. Filtering software is not 100 percent effective; parents and individuals must assume responsibility for Internet use. The Brownstown Public Library supports the education of minors about appropriate online behavior but does not act "in loco parentis"; therefore, a parent or a legal guardian is responsible for their child's use of the Internet. Parents and/or adult guardians assume responsibility for supervising a minor's use of the Internet resources in the Library. Library staff shall not monitor minor's use of the Internet.
2. Parents and/or adult guardians shall be aware that it is possible to purchase goods and services via the Internet and such purchases may result in unwanted goods and financial obligations. Parents and/or adult guardians shall assume responsibility for all such purchases.
3. Parents and/or adult guardians shall be aware that unauthorized access, including "hacking" by minors is illegal. Parents and/or adult guardians shall assume responsibility for any unauthorized access.
4. Parents and/or adult guardians shall be aware that minors should not disclose personal identification information on the Internet.
5. Displays of violent and sexual images on the screen are prohibited in the library.
6. The Brownstown Public Library assumes no liability for use of credit cards by patrons using the Internet.

Provisions for Child Safety on the Internet

Board Policy requires a parent/legal adult guardian to sign an authorization card that stipulates conditions for minor use of Internet access by selecting one of the following options:

1. Decline Access
2. Approve access for minor children only when a parent and/or an adult guardian are present to provide supervision. Library staff is excluded.
3. Approve access for users less than 18 years of age to use the Internet without restriction except library rules and regulations.

Wireless Network Access

The Library has made wireless access points available for public use. Users may bring their own devices and connect to the Library's wireless network to use the Internet, check their email, etc. Due to the wide range of devices, Library staff may not be available to assist users; users are expected to know how to configure their devices in order to connect to the network.

All of the computer use guidelines mentioned above applies when using the wireless network, and connections are also monitored by the library's Internet filtering software.

Staff Use

Staff personal use of the Internet is restricted to break/meal time or non-working hours, during which time the staff member status has reverted to that of a patron. Circulation staff must use patron computers for personal use of the Internet.

Reference: Board of Trustees
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