

UTICA PUBLIC LIBRARY INTERNET USE POLICY

Use Procedures, Rules of Conduct, and Minors Policy

1. In-library use of the library's Internet computers is for activities relating to accessing information for reference, research, education, recreation, and communication. Information such as news, weather, sports, stock quotes, movie reviews, encyclopedias, and educational and entertainment resources on virtually any topic is available.
2. Staff will assist patrons with basic Internet use as time permits, but cannot offer detailed instruction.
3. The library cannot control access points which change rapidly and unpredictably. Internet access and printers may be unavailable at times due to technical difficulties.
4. The Internet is an unregulated medium and while it offers access to a wealth of material that is personally, professionally, and culturally enriching to individuals of all ages, it also enables access to some material that may be offensive or disturbing. The library is not responsible for the content, quality, accuracy, or timeliness of information found on the Internet.
5. Patrons will generally be limited to one hour of Internet time per day. Exceptions may be made at the discretion of library staff, particularly for educational, employment, or research purposes.
6. Use of Internet computers is on a first-come, first-served basis.
7. No more than two persons may use an Internet computer station at one time.
8. Computer terminals may be arranged in a configuration that allows library employees to view screens at all times.
9. All library employees have the authority to terminate computer access for violations of these rules.
10. Internet users should be aware that material on the Internet may be copyrighted. It is the user's responsibility to comply with all United States copyright laws and licensing agreements.

Internet Use and Minors

1. Michigan Public Act 212 of 2000 requires libraries to protect minors from Internet materials that are obscene or harmful to minors. Unlike teachers, librarians do not legally act in loco parentis (in place of the parent). Therefore, parents and legal guardians are responsible for supervising their minor children's use of the Internet and determining what materials or resources are appropriate for them.
2. Children under the age of 12 should be accompanied and supervised by a parent or guardian while using the Internet in the library.
3. Minors may not access, send, receive, print, or knowingly be exposed to materials that can be classified as obscene or harmful to minors under applicable federal or Michigan law.
4. While respecting intellectual freedom and customers' First Amendment rights, the library is committed to maintaining an environment free from sexual harassment, hate material, and unlawful content. Users shall not access, send, receive, or print materials that can be classified as child pornography.
5. Because staff cannot consistently and effectively monitor every patron's Internet use, customers are asked to be respectful of others' values and beliefs. Users have a right to privacy without close scrutiny of library staff or other patrons, but should use computers in less visible areas or request a privacy screen when accessing potentially controversial information or images.

Acceptable Use

1. Patrons will not violate computer system security or damage equipment, software, or data.
2. Patrons will respect the privacy and rights of others.
3. Any violation of the Internet Public Use Policy will result in immediate termination of Internet access. Internet users whose access session has been terminated or prohibited will be given information concerning an appeal process to the Library Board of Trustees to protest the action and/or request that Internet access privileges be reinstated. The Library Board of Trustees may uphold the termination; allow privileges with conditions and/or restrictions; or overturn the ban. In cases of termination or conditional privileges, the Library Board of Trustees shall set a time period that shall elapse before a user shall be permitted to apply for full or conditional reinstatement.

¹ U.S. Code, Title 18, §§ 2256 (1) and (8)

² Michigan Obscene Material Act, P.A. 343 of 1984

³ Michigan Harmful to Minors Act, P.A. 33 of 1978

⁴ U.S. Code, 47, § 254, Children's Internet Protection Act

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