

COLWICH COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Acceptable Use Policy

Adopted February, 2000

The Internet is a resource that is provided free to Colwich Public Library patrons. It offers access to a wealth of information beyond that contained in the library's collection and enhances the research potential of our patrons. The library upholds and affirms the right of each individual to have access to constitutionally protected material. Access to the Internet is compatible with the library's endorsement of the Library Bill of Rights, the Freedom to Read, and the Freedom to View statements from the American Library Association.

Users should be aware that the Internet is an unregulated information resource making as much information available to as many people as possible. It is the responsibility of the user to approach the information critically and cautiously since the library cannot vouch for the accuracy, reliability, or acceptability of any material found on the Internet.

The computers are to be used for Internet and library catalog access only. Chat rooms, entertainment sites, computer games, and Internet gaming sites are not allowed. Patrons with web-based e-mail accounts can send and receive mail only through those accounts. Because these are public computers, confidentiality cannot be assured.

Internet computers may not be only used for illegal purposes. Patrons who engage in unacceptable practices or misuse equipment will lose Internet privileges. Because computers are located in public areas, patrons are asked not to display inappropriate materials, defined as text or graphics, on-screen.

Parents are encouraged to work closely with their children in selecting material and Internet sites that are consistent with personal and family values and boundaries. Children are encouraged to talk with their parents about using the Internet.

Staff Assistance

Traveling the Internet is a new experience for many of us. The library staff will assist in accessing the Internet and attempt to assist you in getting to the right place on the information "super highway". They may be able to offer searching suggestions and answer some questions, but cannot provide individual training concerning Internet use or computer skills.