

INMAN PUBLIC LIBRARY
PUBLIC INTERNET ACCESS POLICY & GUIDELINES

The Inman Public Library provides free access to the Internet for library patrons. Recognizing this service as a part of its mission and role as a useful reference, information, and educational tool, users of the Internet at this library must be aware of and adhere to certain guidelines.

Unlike other library resources, the Internet is an unregulated medium. As such, it offers access to a wealth of material that is personally, professionally, and culturally enriching to individuals of all ages, but it also enables access to some material that may be offensive, disturbing, and/or questionable. Many of the resources on the Internet can enhance the library collection, but the library has no control over what information is available nor is it possible (at this time) to apply the same selection criteria to the Internet which are used for other library materials.

Access by Inman library patrons to any Internet sites/pages that are inappropriate for "all ages" public viewing is strictly prohibited.

INTERNET USERS

Inman Library users may schedule appointments to use the Internet. Walk ins will be requested to postpone immediate access due to previously scheduled appointments or staffing capabilities. A minimal level of computer competence and Internet usage skills are required. Library staff will offer suggestions and answer questions, but cannot provide individual training.

Internet users must have a current Inman Public Library card. Users shall read, accept, and sign the Internet Access Policy which library staff will keep on file at the library.

Internet users under the age of 18 must have their parent/guardian sign the Internet Access Policy. Library staff members are not responsible for the Internet sites selected and/or accessed by minors. Parents or guardians are advised to supervise their children's Internet sessions.

To be specific:

- The Inman Public library does not censor access to materials or protect the user from information that may be offensive. There is sexually explicit material and other information resources which may be controversial or inappropriate.
- Not all sources on the Internet provide accurate, complete, or current information. The user needs to be a good information consumer, questioning the validity of the information found there.

As with all patron library information, confidentiality will be protected.

GENERAL GUIDELINES

A library staff member will connect the computer to the Internet.

The time limit on the Internet and Public Computer is ONE-HOUR per user.

Patrons may use library-owned software free of charge. The software on the computers is for in-library use only and may not be copied or circulated. It may not be changed or modified in any way.

No additional software may be used or installed on the library computers by patrons. This policy protects the existing software and hardware and accommodates copyright laws.

The library will attempt to monitor for viruses with virus scanning software, however, this may not completely protect patrons disks from the chance of getting a computer virus. The Inman Public Library is not responsible for damage or loss of data to a patron's disk or computer that may occur as a result of patron's use of the library's computer.

Patrons may download files from the Internet to diskettes purchased from the Inman Public Library. Arrangements may be made to leave the disk at the library. If a patron takes the disk home, a new one must be purchased the next time the Internet is accessed.

Personal Internet services, such as, e-mail, listservs, chat rooms, and newsgroup access are not available to library patrons. Please do not attempt to send or receive personal e-mail.

Printouts will be charged to the patron at 10 cents per page/copy.

Refusal to cooperate with staff in complying with any or all of the above guidelines will result in loss of computer privileges. Illegal acts using information from library resources are subject to prosecution by local, state, or federal officials.

November 1997