



Internet Use Policy

It is the intent of the Mesa County Public Library District to provide free, equitable, and organized public access to Internet resources. This access honors the fundamental library principle of intellectual freedom, an abiding respect for the dignity and privacy of individual inquiry.

Disclaimer

The Library District has no control over information accessed through the Internet. We cannot be held responsible for its content. Much of the information on the Internet is timely, useful and/or entertaining. Some of it is dated, erroneous or offensive. This is also the case with printed materials. Library users should cast a cautious and critical eye on any and all data they discover. The job of the library is access, not endorsement.

Library Responsibility

The Library District offers computer and Internet access to the public, free of charge, at all library locations. Anyone, regardless of age or residency, can use a library computer. Each library is also equipped for wireless Internet access. Library staff helps patrons navigate, identify and access resources on the Internet. The staff reviews and recommends good sources of information on the Internet and develops special tools (mesacountylibraries.org) in order to assist patrons in using the Internet. The Library District provides classes for adults and children to instruct them in the effective and safe use of the Internet.

- The Library District reserves the right to set rules, as needed, to promote equitable computer use (e.g., time limits) and to revise these rules in response to changes in or concerns about the Library District's computing systems.
- The Library District assumes no liability for any loss or damage to users' data or media, nor for any personal damage or injury incurred as a result of using the Library District's computer resources. This includes damage or injury sustained from invasions of the user's privacy.
- Rules for public use of Library District computer resources are to be defined by the Library District staff. Violation of rules may result in suspension of library use privileges. In general, we expect that our patrons will be both law-abiding and civil.
- The Library District complies with state and federal law mandating the use of filtering software in public libraries. Internet filters are software programs that block access to content that is considered inappropriate for viewing in a public place. It employs filtering software to protect against the visual depiction of pornography, obscenity, and child pornography.
- No filtering system is infallible. The Library District does not assume responsibility for the accuracy of its Internet filters. Parents have the right and responsibility to monitor their children's use of the library computers and the Internet to ensure their safety.

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Mesa County Public Library District

Access by Minors to Internet Resources

The Library District believes that the reading and viewing activity of children is ultimately the responsibility of parents who guide and oversee their own children's development. The Library District does not intrude on that relationship, except when mandated by law.

Parents are encouraged to work with their children to develop rules for the use of the Internet and to review publications on Internet safety recommended by the library. Patrons are advised to be aware of potential safety and security risks to minors when using email, chat rooms, social media and other electronic communications. The Library District provides educational materials regarding these risks which are available upon request.

Unacceptable Use of the Internet by Patrons of Any Age

Inappropriate or illegal use of computers may result in loss of computer privileges and/or loss of library privileges.

Inappropriate use includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- Using computer devices to display sexually explicit images and/or that might be considered immediately offensive to others constitutes rude behavior on most circumstances.
- Attempting to alter or damage computer equipment, software configurations or files belonging to the Library District, other users, or external networks.
- Gaining unauthorized access to another person's files.
- Attempting unauthorized entry to the Library District's network or external networks.
- Using another person's library card to access computers or other devices. If this occurs, both the patron using the equipment and the patron whose card is being used may be suspended from using Internet services.
- The use of computer devices beyond time limits established by Library District staff is not acceptable, unless provided for by a staff member. Time limits may change without notice.
- Installing software on any library device or running any programs that have not been installed by the library.

Illegal use includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- Accessing, displaying, transmitting, or disseminating materials, whether in text or graphic form, so as to unlawfully harass or threaten the library's patrons or staff or any other person.
- Using the computer to access, display, transmit, or disseminate obscene materials (CRS 18-7-101) or child pornography (US Code, Title 18, Sec. 2256; CRS 18-7-502; CRS 18-6-403).
- Violating copyright laws or software license agreements.
- Unauthorized disclosure, use or dissemination of personal information regarding minors.

It is the policy of the Library District to report illegal activities to law enforcement. Library staff members who witness activities or content involving illegal use of the computers will immediately report their observations to the police.

APPROVED: 
Elaine Barnett, Vice President
MCPLD Board of Trustees

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