



Mesa County Libraries (MCL) provides free access to library resources and information through physical and digital materials and technology, including the Internet, in order to meet the informational needs and interests of patrons. The Internet contains various materials and opinions from diverse points of view. Not all sources provide information that is accurate, complete, or current, and some information may be considered offensive or inappropriate for certain individuals. While MCL is sensitive to patrons' concerns about Internet content, no one, including MCL, can control the information available on the Internet. It is the goal of MCL to provide a comfortable and welcoming environment for everyone. Individuals are responsible for their own appropriate use of the Internet in a public place.

Library Responsibility

MCL makes Internet resources available to all patrons at all library locations. Library staff help patrons navigate, identify, and access Internet resources. Staff review and recommend reliable sources of information on the Internet and develop special tools available on MCL's website in order to assist patrons with Internet use. MCL provides classes to instruct patrons in effective and safe Internet use.

MCL assumes no liability for any loss or damage to patrons' devices, data, or media; personal damage; or injury incurred as a result of using MCL's Internet resources. This includes damage or injury sustained from invasions of patrons' privacy.

Confidentiality and Privacy

MCL follows state and federal law regarding privacy of library patrons' records and information.

When a computer session is ended, all information about that session is ordinarily deleted. As part of its regular practice, MCL does not retrieve any information including websites visited, passwords, credit card numbers, or any other information a patron has entered. At the end of the business day, all computer use and reservation records are normally erased. MCL will release records, including those related to Internet usage, only as required by law.

Patrons are advised to exercise caution when providing personal identification and financial information.

Internet Filters

MCL complies with state and federal law guiding the use of filtering software in public libraries. Internet-connected computers and wireless access are filtered to screen obscene and sexually explicit websites in accordance with the Federal Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) and Colorado's Internet Protection Act.

No filtering software is infallible. Filters may falsely block material that is appropriate in a public library setting, or they may fail to block access to illegal or objectionable material. Patrons may submit requests to staff for websites to be blocked or unblocked.





Access to Internet Resources by Minors

As with all library materials, MCL affirms the right and responsibility of parents/guardians, not library staff, to determine and monitor their child's (under 17 years old) Internet use. MCL staff work in partnership with parents/guardians to help guide children in safe Internet use. Because staff cannot control all aspects of this vast resource, MCL urges parents/guardians to continually participate in their child's learning process by helping them make informed choices in selecting appropriate materials and websites.

Patron Responsibility

MCL patrons are expected to use Internet resources in a responsible and legal manner that is consistent with the Mesa County Libraries Code of Conduct and Computer Use Rules available on the MCL website and posted at all MCL locations. Patrons must abide by established time limits when using MCL's computer devices to allow equitable use of library resources. Inappropriate or illegal use of computers may result in loss of computer privileges and/or loss of library privileges.

Prohibited use of MCL technology and networks includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- Using computer devices to display sexually explicit images that might be considered immediately offensive to others.
- Using computer devices to access, display, transmit, or disseminate obscene materials (Colorado Revised Statutes § 18-7-101) or child pornography (U.S. Code, Title 18, Section 2256; C.R.S. § 18-6-403; C.R.S. § 18-7-502).
- Using the Internet to transmit threatening or harassing materials.
- Unauthorized disclosure, use, or dissemination of personal information regarding minors.
- Gaining unauthorized access to another person's files or attempting unauthorized entry to networks.
- Using another person's library card to access computers or other devices.
- Attempting to alter or damage computer equipment, software configurations, or files belonging to MCL, other patrons, or external networks.
- Installing software on computer devices or running programs that have not been installed by MCL.
- Violating copyright laws or software license agreements.

It is MCL's policy to report illegal activities to law enforcement. MCL staff who witness activities or content involving illegal use of computer devices will immediately report their observations to appropriate law enforcement.

REVIEWED AND ADOPTED ON March 25, 2021.

Cynthia Cyphers

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