

Computer and Internet Use Policy

Policy adopted: 06/06/00

Policy revised: 06/22/2023

It is the policy of the Walworth-Seely Public Library to:

- a) Prevent user access over its computer network to, or transmission of, inappropriate material via Internet, electronic mail, or other forms of direct electronic communications;
- b) Prevent unauthorized access and other unlawful online activity;
- c) Prevent unauthorized online disclosure, use, or dissemination of personal identification information of minors; and
- d) Comply with the Children's Internet Protection Act [Pub. L. No. 106-554 and 47 USC 254(h)].

Definitions

Key terms are as defined in the Children's Internet Protection Act

HARMFUL TO MINORS.

The term "harmful to minors" means any picture, image, graphic image file, or other visual depiction that:

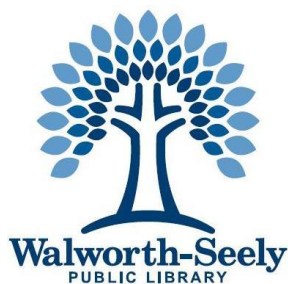
- 1. Taken as a whole and with respect to minors, appeals to a prurient interest in nudity, sex, or excretion;*
- 2. Depicts, describes, or represents, in a patently offensive way with respect to what is suitable for minors, an actual or simulated sexual act or sexual contact, actual or simulated normal or perverted sexual acts, or a lewd exhibition of the genitals; and*
- 3. Taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value as to minors.*

SEXUAL ACT; SEXUAL CONTACT.

The terms "sexual act" and "sexual contact" have the meanings given such terms in section 2246 of title 18, United States Code.

General

In keeping with the Walworth-Seely Public Library's mission to provide patrons with current information in a variety of formats, the library offers free access to the internet. The primary purpose of using the internet will be information gathering and research. Computer records, as all library records, are confidential. They will be made available as proscribed by law.



Public Computer and Laptop Usage

The library computers and laptops are for use by the public to search the internet and the use of various applications supported by the Library Director. Computers and laptops will have current, effective anti-spyware and antivirus programs.

Users may not install any software or save any computer files on the hard drive from any source, nor may anyone make any changes to the configuration of any computer. Patrons may use their own flash drives, CDs or DVDs as nothing will be saved on the computers. Any manipulation of the library's file configuration by a user will result in immediate and permanent revocation of that user's right to access library computers.

Any repair or replacement cost due to user negligence will be the fiscal responsibility of the user.

Patrons may receive basic help from the staff as time permits. However, the staff is not available for intensive training. Patrons will be referred to various sources for additional help.

Trustees of the WSPL are subject to the same restrictions as the public in use of equipment. Staff are also subject to these restrictions, plus any other computer and internet related policies within the Employee Handbook.

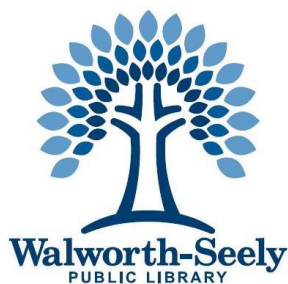
Computer Use by Minors

Anyone 8 years of age or older may use one of the computers alone. Anyone under the age of 8 must have an adult with them at the computer at all times. Parents/caregivers will provide authorization of internet use for their child at the time of library card registration. Staff will document authorization on child's library account, however it is ultimately the parent/caregiver's responsibility to monitor computer use by their child(ren).

To the extent practical, minors' online access to inappropriate materials and materials harmful to minors is restricted on devices located within the Children's Area of the library.

Network Usage

To the extent practical, steps shall be taken to promote the safety and security of users of the Library online computer network when using electronic mail, chat rooms, instant



messaging, and other forms of direct electronic communications. Specifically, as required by the Children's Internet Protection Act, prevention of inappropriate network usage includes:

- a) Unauthorized access, including 'hacking,' and other unlawful activities; and
- b) Unauthorized disclosure, use, and dissemination of personal identification information regarding minors.

As possession of child pornography is illegal, patrons who are found to be in possession of such will be reported to the local police agencies.

As the computer stations are in full view of a public area, patrons are expected to use discretion when entering internet sites. If a patron is found to be in a site that is offensive to the general public and the patron does not exit the site on their own, the staff will request that the patron do so. If the patron does not, internet privileges may be revoked at the discretion of the library director.

Copyright Law

U.S. Copyright Law prohibits the unauthorized reproduction or distribution of copyrighted materials without the explicit permission of the author. Each patron is expected to abide with the Copyright Law.

Policy Enforcement

The Walworth-Seely Public Library is unable to control or monitor the content of the internet. The library supports the American Library Association Bill of Rights, including those that deal with intellectual freedom, as well as the First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States.

It shall be the responsibility of all members of the Library staff to enforce usage of the online computer network and access to the Internet in accordance with this policy and the Children's Internet protection Act. The library is not responsible for the content, quality, validity or currency of the information found on the internet as it is an unregulated medium. Users are responsible for evaluating the data received.

This policy and the procedures for enforcement are subject to revision at any time. Users are responsible for keeping informed of changes. The current policy is posted near the internet stations.