

The Rockland Public Library's electronic resources may be used only for purposes that are legal and consistent with the Library's Mission: *to build community, preserve history, and nurture the life of the mind*. Unacceptable use includes, but is not limited to: **intentional exposure to other individuals of material or images that they (or their parents) may find personally unsuitable**. The entire text of the library's Internet Use policy can be found below.

ROCKLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY INTERNET USE & SAFETY POLICY

The Rockland Public Library provides access to a broad range of information resources, including those available through the Internet. The Library's mission: *To build community, preserve history, and nurture the life of the mind*, mandates such access. Congress and the courts have recognized that there is no single organization to govern, control, or select information for the Internet. While the Internet offers many valuable local, national, and international sources of information, it also enables access to some material that may be offensive, disturbing and/or illegal, inaccurate or incomplete.

Rules governing use

The Rockland Public Library provides public access to the Internet via terminals that are located throughout the building. The Library reserves the right to limit the use of these public access workstations. The Library's electronic resources may be used only for purposes that are legal and consistent with the Library's mission. Library users may not use public library Internet stations for unlawful purposes or to view illegal content. The Library's Internet service is provided by NetworkMaine, a unit of the University of Maine system via the Maine School and Library Network (MSLN), a service connecting schools and libraries in the state to the Internet at little or no cost through the use of federal and state funding. The service also provides protection measures to filter content in accordance with the Child Internet Protection Act. The Library will disable the filter **for lawful purposes** upon the request of users 17 years of age or older. Policies governing Internet usage apply to the Library's wireless (WI FI) service, as well.

Unacceptable use includes, but is not limited to :

- ◆ Intentional exposure of other individuals to material or graphic images that they (or their parents or guardians) may find personally unsuitable.
- ◆ Harassment of other library users or staff.
- ◆ Unauthorized access to files, data, or passwords of others.

- ◆ Unauthorized copying of copyright-protected materials.
- ◆ Violations or attempts to violate computer system security.
- ◆ Damaging or attempting to alter computer equipment.
- ◆ Hacking or other unlawful activities.
- ◆ Unauthorized disclosure, use, and dissemination of personal identification information regarding minors.
- ◆ Use of a workstation for any illegal or criminal purpose, including viewing content such as child pornography or obscenity.

Violations of any of the above rules may result in loss of computer access. Unlawful activities will be dealt with in a serious and appropriate manner.

Supervising children's use

It is the Library's policy that parents or legal guardians must assume responsibility for deciding what library resources are appropriate for their children. There may be resources that some parents feel are inappropriate for their children, and parents should let their children know which resources they do not want them to use. Restriction of a child's access to the Internet is the responsibility of the parent or guardian; unlike schools, the Library does not have the right to act in loco parentis. The following are recommended guidelines for parents and guardians to ensure their children have positive online experiences:

- Use the Internet as a family. Join your children in Internet exploration.
- Encourage children to use sites recommended on the Library's homepage and counsel them to avoid sites you consider unsuitable or inappropriate.
- Inform your children about the appropriate use of electronic mail, chat rooms, and other forms of direct electronic communication.
- Instruct children NEVER to give out personal information online.
- Read *Internet Safety* (available at the Library; J 005.8 .
- View the following resources:

<https://www.fbi.gov/stats-services/publications/parent-guide>
<http://www.ncpc.org/topics/internet-safety>
<http://www.pta.org/programs/content.cfm?ItemNumber=3083>
<https://transition.fcc.gov/cgb/consumerfacts/cipa.pdf>

Revised & Adopted by Rockland Public Library Advisory Committee
08/17/2015

Revised & Adopted by Rockland Public Library Advisory Committee, to include wireless access
10/26/2015