

## PUBLIC ACCESS INTERNET POLICY

Revised 8/14/03, 12/28/06, 8/10/09, 9/10/09, 2/14/13, 3/21/2013, 1/7/14, 7/13/16, 11/14/17, 12/12/17, 11-9-21, 4/19/22, 9/26/22

Reviewed 11/6/24

### **Purpose**

The Internet allows the Oelwein Public Library to provide the community with access to global information, ideas, and discussion within the guidelines of the library's mission statement and materials selection policy.

### **Responsibilities of the Library**

The library:

- provides high-speed Internet access but can make no guarantees of uninterrupted service.
- cannot guarantee the accuracy or authenticity of information accessed through the Internet.
- assumes no responsibility for a patron's activities on the internet.
- accepts no responsibility for damage to a patron's computer or other devices or for the loss of any data that may occur from using the library's computers.
- affirms the right of every individual to have access to constitutionally protected material. At the same time, the library is a public space shared by patrons of all ages, backgrounds, and sensibilities. The library reserves the right to ask patrons to discontinue the display of information and images which cause disruption.
- cannot guarantee confidentiality over the Internet. Patrons entering personal information (credit card numbers, social security numbers, etc.) do so at their own risk.

### **Responsibility of Patrons**

- As with other library materials, the library affirms the parents' or guardians' right and responsibility to guide, determine, and monitor their children's use of the Internet.
- Patrons are urged to respect the sensibilities of others when accessing information that may reasonably be offensive to someone else.
- Absolute privacy in using the Internet in the library cannot be guaranteed.
- The "Conduct in the Library" policy applies to the behavior of patrons using the Internet.

### **Computer use**

- When computers are checked out, the user will state which city or state is their residence. This information is used for statistical purposes.
- Only two people may sit at a computer station at one time.
- Computers may be used, initially, for 1 hour. The patron can continue using the computer unless another patron is waiting to use the computer.
- A printer is available for patron use at a fee
  - Black - \$.20 per page per side.
  - Color - \$.50 per page per side.
- Misuse of the computer will result in the loss of computer privileges.
  - First offense: 1 month
  - Second offense: 6 months
  - Third offense: 1 year
  - Subsequent offenses: 1 year

### **Confidentiality**

It is the library's practice not to maintain a history of our patrons' computer use. The library will not retrieve any information, including web sites visited, passwords or credit card numbers, or any other information a patron has entered.

### **Wireless Access**

- The library provides free, unsecured, wireless Internet access for public use.
- Security for personal wireless devices rests solely with the owner of the wireless device.
- Personal use of the library's public wireless access will conform to policies regulating other types of public Internet access provided by the library.
- Abusive or illegal activity is prohibited while using the library's internet service. Copyright law (Title 17, U.S. Code) prohibits the unauthorized reproduction or distribution of copyrighted materials, except as permitted by the principles of "fair use." Users may not copy or distribute electronic materials (including electronic mail, text, images, programs or data) without the explicit permission of the copyright holder. Any responsibility for any consequences of copyright infringement lies with the user; the Oelwein Public Library expressly disclaims any liability or responsibility resulting from such use.

### **Staff Assistance**

Patrons are expected to have a basic knowledge of computer use and the Internet. Staff cannot provide in-depth training for patrons but will answer basic questions about Internet use or help locate resources.