

## **MONTEZUMA PUBLIC LIBRARY INTERNET USAGE**

### **AND WIRELESS POLICY**

#### **Purpose**

The purpose of public access to the Internet is to augment the library's collection and to support the community's informational needs, life-long learning opportunities, and cultural and leisure activities. The library has no control over the information accessed through the Internet and cannot be held responsible for its content. Library staff will not monitor a user's Internet use, except for the length of use in order to ensure equal opportunity of access for everyone.

#### **Confidentiality**

The Internet is not a secure, private environment. The library cannot guarantee confidentiality over the Internet. Library users handling financial transactions or other activities that require confidentiality do so at their own risk. In general, electronic communication is not absolutely secure and is subject to outside intervention. It is the library's practice not to maintain a history of an individual's computer use. The library will not retrieve any information, including web sites visited, passwords or credit card numbers, or any other information a user has entered. Usage history is erased at the end of each individual computer session.

#### **Responsibilities of the Library**

The library has no means or statutory authority to assure that only constitutionally protected material is accessed by the public. The authority to determine what is obscene rests with the court system of Iowa (Sec. 728.6, Code of Iowa<sup>1</sup>). The availability of information does not constitute endorsement of the content by Montezuma Public Library. The library reserves the right to terminate an Internet session that disrupts library services or that involves user behavior that violates the Library's policies. The user, or the parent of a minor, is responsible for his or her Internet session at all times. As with all library resources, the library affirms the right and responsibility of parents/guardians, NOT Library staff, to determine and monitor children's use of the Internet. (Minors are defined in this policy as children and young people under the age of 17 years.) Parents are responsible for their minor children's use of the library's resources and facilities. Parents who believe that their children cannot responsibly use the library's Internet access are requested to monitor their

children's Internet use. Montezuma Public Library expressly disclaims any liability or responsibility arising from access to or use of information obtained through the Internet, or any consequences thereof. As stated in the American Library Association's Statement on Library Use of Filtering Software, "... the use of filtering software to block access to constitutionally protected speech violates the Library Bill of Rights;<sup>2</sup>" The Library will not censor access to material and is not responsible for the availability or accuracy of information found on the Internet. The Library provides high-speed Internet access but cannot guarantee uninterrupted service.

<sup>1</sup>Code of Iowa: containing all statutes of a general and permanent nature. Des Moines: State of Iowa, 1924-  
<sup>2</sup>"Statement on Library Use of Filtering Software", American Library Association Intellectual Freedom Committee, July 1, 1997; Rev. November 17, 2000

The library complies with the United States Copyright Law, and all other federal, state, and local laws relating to the use of the Internet and other electronic media. The library is not responsible for work or information lost due to computer or system malfunction.

### **Technology Protection Measures**

The Library, either by itself or in combination with its Internet access provider, will install filtering software or other technologies on all library computers with Internet access, and will enforce the operation of same during any use of those computers, to prevent minors from accessing visual depictions that are (1) obscene, (2) child pornography, or (3) harmful to minors. Filtering software is not foolproof. It diminishes the likelihood that searchers will inadvertently retrieve text or images that they may find offensive, but does not eliminate that possibility. Filters often block access to sites that users would consider both inoffensive and useful. Technology protection measures may be disabled by library staff for adults or, in the case of minors, minimized for bona fide research or other lawful purposes.

### **Responsibilities of Library Users**

Privacy in using the Internet in the library cannot be guaranteed. There exists a possibility of inadvertent viewing by others. Users are urged to respect the sensibilities of others when accessing information that may reasonably be offensive to someone else. Library staff may require that a user cease Internet use if such use is considered to be disruptive to the library environment.

Access, use, or dissemination of information via the Internet in the library is the responsibility of the user. It is illegal to use the library's computers to access, view, print, distribute, display, send, or receive material that violates state or federal laws (Sec. 728.2, Code of Iowa<sup>3</sup>), including those relating to child pornography and content that is obscene or "harmful to minors."<sup>4</sup>

Users may download information to a personal storage device. Users may not install personal software on library computers. Users may not make any attempt to alter, damage, or cause degradation to library equipment or system performance.

### **Response to Violations**

The user's access to the Library's computer network and Internet is a privilege, not a right. A user violates this policy by his or her own action or by failing to report any violations by other users that come to the attention of the user. Further, a user violates this policy if he or she permits another to use his or her account or password to access the computer network and Internet. Failure to comply with this policy and its procedures will result in the forfeiture of the user's right to access these computers.

### **Wireless Internet Use**

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. Montezuma Public Library's Internet and Wireless Policy is part of the library's overall policy structure and should be interpreted in conjunction with other existing policies.

**Adopted June 16, 2021, by the Montezuma Public Library Board of Trustees**

<sup>3</sup> Code of Iowa: containing all statutes of a general and permanent nature. Des Moines: State of Iowa, 1924-

<sup>4</sup> "Guidelines for Internet Acceptable Use Policies : Public Libraries", American Library Association,

<http://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/ifttoolkits/litoolkit/internetusepolicies>, 12/31/2019.