

Wallingford Public Library Internet Safety Policy

In order to meet the information needs of its users, the Wallingford Public Library provides public access to the Internet. The Internet is an electronic information network connecting computer resources throughout the world. The Library is unable to monitor or control the content of material available through this medium and library patrons use it at their own risk. While much of the information on the Internet is of very high quality, some material may not be accurate, authoritative, appropriate, or timely. Parents/guardians of children under 18 are responsible for their children's use of the Internet.

The Wallingford Public Library's Internet Safety Policy is designed to promote access to the Internet while protecting children from exposure to inappropriate material, as well as the public from unlawful access to and use or disclosure of personal information.

Choosing and Evaluating Sources

Information consumers must evaluate the validity and appropriateness of information found on the Internet. In an effort to assist its users, the Wallingford Public Library has created a website to guide people to information that is accurate, complete and current. In addition, the Library staff is available to assist its patrons to use the Internet in a safe, effective and efficient manner. Finally, in accordance with the Children's Internet Protection Act, the Library has implemented "technology protection measures" (i.e., software filtering) on all of its Internet-accessible computers.

Filtering

As required by the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA), in order to remain eligible for certain federal funding, the Library has implemented software filtering on its Internet-accessible computers and on its wi-fi network. The filtering software protects against access to visual depictions of obscenity, child pornography, and materials that are deemed "harmful to minors." Computer users should be aware, however, that the Library cannot and does not guarantee that the filtering software will block all obscenity, child pornography, or materials that are harmful to minors. Nor can the Library guarantee that the filtering software will not restrict access to sites that may have legitimate research or other value. Users should be aware that Internet filtering software installed for CIPA compliance should not substitute for individual judgment and/or parental involvement and oversight. As the law requires, the Library will disable filtered Internet access to persons 18 or older who request it for bona fide research or any other lawful purposes. Users may speak with a librarian to request unblocking of a blocked site.

Education and Monitoring

Parents or legal guardians must assume responsibility for deciding which library resources are appropriate for their own children. Parents or legal guardians should guide their children in use

of the Internet and inform them about materials they should not use. Parents and guardians are encouraged to make themselves familiar with information about Internet safety. Our librarians are available to provide more information.

Inappropriate Internet Use

As required by CIPA, prevention of inappropriate Internet use includes: (a) unauthorized access, including so-called 'hacking,' and other unlawful activities; (b) unauthorized disclosure, use, and dissemination of personal identification information regarding minors; and (c) dissemination and viewing of obscene visual depictions, child pornography, and/or other materials harmful to minors.

User Security

Computer users should be aware that the Internet is not a secure medium and that third parties may be able to obtain information regarding users' activities. The Wallingford Public Library will not release information on the use of specific Internet resources by members of the public except as required by law or necessary for the proper operation of the Library.

Compliance

The Library reserves the right to take appropriate action to insure compliance with this policy.

Adopted by the Board of Managers, June 27, 2016.