

The Windham Public Library's connection to the Internet, a worldwide computer-based resource, enables the library to provide access to information beyond the confines of its own collections and enhances the breadth and depth of information resources available to users of the library. Currently the Internet is an unregulated medium. Unlike other library resources, it is not organized, catalogued or indexed. The information available on the Internet includes much that is personally, professionally and culturally enriching. It also provides access to material that may be offensive or disturbing to some individuals and access to information that may be factually incorrect and/or illegal.

The Internet is a powerful tool for finding information but it is not necessarily a substitute for other library resources. Library users are encouraged to ask a librarian for assistance in finding the best sources for research.

The Windham Public Library does not monitor and has no control over the information available through the Internet and specifically disclaims any warranty as to its accuracy, authority, timeliness or fitness for a particular purpose.

Currently in accordance with the Children's Internet Protection Act the library computers are filtered through the Maine School and Library Network. Due to the unreliability of filters sometimes blocking legitimate sites, the library staff may override a filter for a period of 15 minutes.

The Windham Public Library endorses the Library Bill of Rights as adopted by the American Library Association and supports the democratic principle of every citizen's right to free access to information: therefore no measures will be taken that violate the Constitutional rights of any of our patrons.

Parents concerned about their children's use of electronic resources are ultimately responsible for setting standards and establishing guidelines for their children. The Windham Public Library affirms the basic responsibility of parents to determine the appropriateness of Internet-accessed sources and all other library materials for their children. The library staff will to the best of its ability guide children to appropriate materials and sites. The library offers a handout designed to help patrons of all ages use the Internet safely and wisely in order to help educate our patrons in this area.

Hacking and other unlawful activities by users are prohibited on the library's computers. Unauthorized disclosure and use and dissemination of personal identification information regarding minors are prohibited.

The Windham Public Library's electronic resources may be used only for purposes that are legal and consistent with the library's mission. Unacceptable uses include but are not limited to:

- Harassment of other library users or staff or unauthorized access to files, data or passwords of others.
- Libeling or slandering others
- Disruption or unauthorized monitoring of electronic communications
- Unauthorized copying of copyright-protected communications
- Violations or attempts to violate computer system security and/or software license agreements
- Intentional exposure to other individuals (particularly minors) to materials or images they (or their parents) may find personally unsuitable
- Display of sexual or violent graphics and unlawful material on the Internet is prohibited
- Incurred costs to the Windham Public Library resulting from use of computer, injuries sustained while using the computer or emanating from contacts with websites

The library reserves the right to limit the use of its electronic resources by the public. Such limitations may include but are not limited to:

- time restrictions on the computers
 - patrons sign in to use the computer
 - requiring that patrons use only library supplied software and do not alter or attach equipment to library's hardware
- Misuse of the computer or Internet access may result in the loss of computer privileges.

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