

WAUKESHA PUBLIC LIBRARY

POLICY: WORLD WIDE WEB ACCESS POLICY

Approved by Library Board: 3/11/99, 2/12/98

Last Reviewed by Board: 3/11/99

Number: A-7

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Mission Statement: "The mission of the Waukesha Public Library is to make high-interest, high-demand materials readily available, as well as to actively support the lifelong learning and information needs of community residents of all ages and abilities. Special emphasis is placed on stimulating children's interests and appreciation for reading and learning, on integrating new technology with traditional library resources, and expanding access and services beyond the library's physical walls."

The library staff develops collections, services, and resources to fulfill this mission. The Waukesha Public Library recognizes that free public access to electronic information resources provides the library with an opportunity to fulfill the library's mission in expanding the scope of the information available to community citizens.

The World Wide Web (hereafter referred to as "the Web") is one component of the Internet, a vast network of computer networks linking millions of computers. It offers access to ideas, information, and opinion from around the world. However, the Web is an ungoverned and unregulated medium. The Library is responsible only for the information on its home page. The Library does not monitor and has limited control over the information that may be accessible through other sites on the Web. In choosing and using Web sources, users should evaluate them just as they do print sources, questioning the accuracy and completeness of the information.

On its in-house public access workstations, the Library has chosen to install filtering software that blocks access to certain sites. This is done in an attempt to make the Web content that is accessed at the Library most closely approximate the types of materials that are selected for the Library's collection. Since the library does not promote particular beliefs or views, the electronic resources, along with the rest of the collection, will contain various positions on important questions, including unpopular or unorthodox positions.

Users should be aware that no filtering software is totally effective in this electronic environment, which changes rapidly and unpredictably. A customer may request that staff re-evaluate access to a specific site if he or she disagrees with the filtering software's handling of that site. Responsibility for choosing what an individual will read or view rests with the individual. Responsibility for the use of the Web by children and young adults, as with other library materials, rests with their parents or legal guardians. Parents are encouraged to discuss with their children appropriate use of Web resources and to supervise their children's Web sessions.

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The primary purpose of the Library's Web computers is to supplement and extend its print, non-print, and electronic collections of information materials. They are not intended to be used for gaming, chat, or any other activities that do not correspond to the Library's mission and service program. The Library staff may impose procedural restrictions, such as time limits and sign-ups, on the use of Library equipment in order to insure more equitable sharing of workstations. While respecting an individual user's right to privacy, staff have the right to monitor use of Web workstations to ensure compliance with this policy. Inappropriate or illegal, or unacceptable use of this resource is prohibited and can result in the loss of Web or Library privileges. Examples of unacceptable uses include, but are not limited to: accessing files, passwords, or data belonging to others; damaging or altering hardware or software; unauthorized reproduction of copyrighted, licensed, or other protected material; misrepresenting oneself as another user; harassing or interfering with other users or library customers; violation of any local, state, federal, or international laws.

Copyright law prohibits the unauthorized reproduction or distribution of copyrighted materials, except as permitted by the principles of fair use. Any responsibility for consequences arising from copyright infringement or any other illegal use lies with the user. The Waukesha Public Library assumes no responsibility for any damages, direct or indirect, arising from the use of its Web connection.

This policy will be printed and made available at all public Web access stations

Approved by the Library Board
March 11, 1999

Acceptable Use

Public World Wide Web Access

The World Wide Web workstations are provided for educational and informational purposes, consistent with the Waukesha Public Library's mission. By using a Web workstation, you agree to abide by the policy as stated in the brochure located next to this workstation or available at the Reference Desk.

Responsibility for the use of the Web by children and young adults rests with their parents or legal guardians. Parents are encouraged to discuss with their children appropriate use of Web resources and to supervise their children's Web sessions.

Closing this window or clicking on the "I Agree To The Terms" button below constitutes agreement with the terms of the policy.

Failure to abide by the policy can result in the loss of Web or Library privileges.

AGREE TO THE TERMS

**Policy Approved by the Library Board
February 12, 1998**

file:HC:\WPLwebsite\test acknowledge2.html

01/27/1999