

A. PURPOSE

The Elkhart Public Library ("the Library") provides access to information from a variety of sources. The Library Board of Trustees invites Library users to access the internet for the purposes of education and entertainment.

B. DEFINITIONS

1. Internet: A global electronic communications network that connects computer networks and organizational computer facilities around the world.
2. Hardware: The physical parts of technology. Examples include but are not limited to computers, internal and external equipment, monitors, mice, keyboards, cabling, laptops, tablets, wifi hotspots, etc.
3. Software: The entire set of programs, operating information, procedures and related documentation associated with a computer system.
4. Users: Individuals who use the Library's hardware, software or networks, regardless of physical location.

C. POLICY

1. The Library cannot control and is not responsible for the content and accuracy of the information accessed via the internet.
2. The Library has multiple levels of filtering in place to screen content that may be in violation of state and federal obscenity laws. However, parents or guardians of minor children who wish to restrict or protect their children from information on the internet must assume full responsibility for such guidance.
3. The Library does not assume responsibility for any damages suffered by internet users while accessing or using information obtained from the internet, nor does the Library assume any responsibility for damages to the users' hardware or software. Anything downloaded from the internet may contain malicious software. Users are encouraged to protect their personal computers and mobile devices with appropriate security software. The Library's wireless internet service is not encrypted or secure.
4. Users may not in any way alter, damage, abuse, or sabotage Library hardware or software, alter configurations, install any software, or attempt to cause harm to the Library's computer systems in any way.
5. Users are liable for costs arising from malicious damage to Library hardware or software.
6. Users may not use or attempt to use any Library hardware or software for illegal purposes, including but not limited to violating licensing agreements or copyright laws.
7. Users may not use or attempt to use Library hardware or software for any activity that is deliberately offensive or creates an intimidating or hostile environment.
8. The Library will not release information on the use of specific internet resources by members of the public except as required by law or as necessary for the proper operation of the Library.

D. ADOPTION

1. Adopted by the Elkhart Public Library Board of Trustees: November 16, 2021
2. Supersedes Internet Access Policy dated November 21, 2017
3. Supersedes Internet Access Policy dated October 18, 2016
4. Supersedes Internet Access Policy dated March 17, 2015
5. Supersedes Internet Policy dated July 24, 2012
6. Supersedes Internet Policy dated January 2001