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PUBLIC INTERNET USE POLICY

The Board of Trustees of the Delta County Public Library District, aka Delta County Libraries, also referred to as the Library District . The District, adopts and makes public the following written Internet Use Policy.

Background

Delta County Libraries will provide free, equitable, and organized public access to Internet resources. This access honors the fundamental Library District principle of intellectual freedom, an abiding respect for the dignity and privacy of individual inquiry.

Delta County Libraries is committed not only to providing public access to the Internet in general, but also to:

- the development or purchase of local information resources (such as the catalog of our holdings, periodical indexes and databases, and other databases of local or regional interest);
- the identification and organization of links to resources the Library District believes fit its general collection policies; and
- search tools that reach far beyond the organizational efforts of the Delta County Libraries to the manifold offerings of the Internet.

Disclaimer

In total, Delta County Libraries has no control over information accessed through the Internet and cannot be held responsible for its content. Much of the information on the Internet is timely, useful, and/or entertaining. Some of it is dated, erroneous, offensive or illegal. Library District users should cast a cautious and critical eye on any and all data they discover. The job of the Library District is access, not endorsement.

Filtering of Library District Internet Computers

In 2000, Congress passed The Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA), which requires libraries receiving certain types of federal funding to install a technology protection measure that blocks images ("visual depictions") that are obscene (as defined in [CRS 18-7-101\(2\)](#)), contain child pornography (as defined in [18 U.S.C. Sec. 2256\(8\)](#)), or are harmful to minors; except that no technology protection measure may block scientific or medically accurate information regarding sexual assault, sexual abuse, incest, sexually transmitted diseases, or reproductive health. The U.S. Supreme Court upheld CIPA in 2003. In addition, the Colorado legislature passed the Internet Protection in Public Libraries Act in 2004, which mandates similar protective measures for computers in public libraries. As a result, commercial filtering software is installed on all Library District District public computers. No filtering software is 100 percent accurate. Filters

may falsely block constitutionally protected speech, or they may fail to block access to illegal or objectionable material. Filtering software is not a substitute for parental judgment and oversight. Delta County Libraries believes that the reading and viewing activity of children is ultimately the responsibility of parents who guide and oversee their own children's development. The Delta County Libraries does not intrude on that relationship, except when mandated by law.

The Delta County Libraries utilizes commercial filtering software to block access to obscene and sexually explicit materials.

Library District Internet computers may not be used to access materials that by local community standards would be considered obscene. Library District staff is authorized to take prompt and appropriate action to prohibit use by those who fail to comply with the District's Acceptable Use of the Library District Policy.

Use of Electronic Resources

Any of the following actions may result in the loss of Library District privileges and/or criminal prosecution or other legal action. Unacceptable use of the Delta County Libraries electronic resources includes, but is not limited to, the following:

1. It is not acceptable to use Delta County Libraries electronic resources for illegal or criminal use. *Specifically, users shall not view or print "child pornography" as defined above, or material which is "obscene" as defined by C.R.S.18-7-101.*
2. It is not acceptable to violate the legal protections provided by copyright and licenses to programs or data.
3. It is not acceptable to use Delta County Libraries resources to seek to infiltrate a computer or computing system and/or damage or alter the software or hardware components of a local or remote computer or computing system.
4. It is not acceptable to disregard the legal protections provided by copyright license law, or otherwise-controlled data and software residing on the Internet.
4. It is not acceptable to seek information on, obtain copies of, or modify files, other data, or passwords belonging to other users. Users shall not represent themselves as another user unless explicitly authorized to do so by that user.
5. It is not acceptable to falsify one's age to gain access to Internet sites.
6. It is not acceptable to engage in any activity that is harassing or defamatory.
7. It is not acceptable to use the Library District's computers to distribute solicited advertising.
8. It is not acceptable to allow a person under the age of 17 to view materials, or expose a person under the age of 17 to viewing of materials, that are "harmful to minors" as defined by [C.R.S. 24-90-602\(3\)](#). Due to the fact that minors are regularly in the libraries computer areas, accessing such material is not permitted by any user.
9. Downloading from the Internet is limited to removable media only (e.g. compact disk, flash drive, etc.) Downloading files of programs greater than ten megabytes is discouraged.
10. Headphones must be worn when accessing a program or game that utilizes sound.
11. All library computer equipment and software must be used as installed by the Library. Users are not permitted to add to, delete, or modify existing hardware or software.

12. Users must abide by the time limits set in the library and must not disrupt computer or library use of others.

13. A violation of the Library District's Internet Use Policy is also a violation of the Acceptable Use of the Library Policy, and is prohibited.

Wireless Access

As part of its goal to offer access to current technology and a welcoming environment, Delta County Libraries offers wireless access to the Internet. Delta County Libraries provide free Wi-Fi Internet access for users with portable devices capable of receiving wireless signals. Filtering is installed on the District wireless system.

By choosing to use this free wireless service you agree to abide by the Delta County Libraries Internet Use Policy. Users of the library's wireless access must comply with all federal, state and local laws, including the restriction against transmission or receipt of child pornography or harmful materials, fraud or downloading of copyrighted material.

Additional Rules Governing Wireless Access

1. Library District staff members are not allowed to install or configure any hardware or software in patrons' laptops or mobile devices.
2. The Library District assumes no responsibility for any alterations or interference with a laptop's or mobile device's configuration, operation, or data files resulting from connection to the wireless network.
3. Anti-virus and security protection are the responsibility of the patron.
4. The Library District assumes no responsibility for damage, theft, or loss of any kind to a user's equipment, software, data files, or other personal property brought into or used at the Library District's facilities.
5. The Library District cannot guarantee that the service will be available at any specific time, nor can the Library District accept reservations for wireless access.
6. Patrons shall defend, indemnify, and hold harmless the Delta County Libraries, its officers, trustees, employees, and agents against all claims, actions, and judgments based upon or arising out of the patron's use of Library District wireless connections.
7. Printing is not available through wireless access.

Internet Safety for Minors

The Library District urges minors and their caregivers to keep in mind the following safety guidelines:

1. Never reveal your own or anyone else's full name, phone number, address, or any other personally identifying information to anyone you do not know on the Internet.
2. Never arrange a face to face meeting with someone via the computer without parent's or guardian's approval.
3. Never respond to messages that are suggestive, obscene, threatening, or make you uncomfortable.
4. If you become aware of the transmission of child pornography, have parents or guardians report the incident to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children at 1-800-843-5678.
5. Remember that people online may not be who they say they are.
6. Remember that some things you read may not be true.

Agreement to Comply with Policy

Use of the Delta County Libraries computer systems constitutes agreement to comply with this policy as well as any additional guidelines established by the Library.

Public Users' Security

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 Delta County Libraries will not release information on the use of specific Internet resources by members of the public except as required by law.

Remedies and Enforcement

The Library District reserves the right to take appropriate remedial or disciplinary action as outlined in the Acceptable Use of the Library District Policy to ensure compliance with this Internet Use Policy. Unlawful activities will be dealt with in an appropriate manner, including referral to law enforcement authorities.

Guidelines on Access to Information

The Delta County Libraries is guided by the following American Library Association statements on access to information:

- [The Library Bill of Rights](#)
- [Freedom to Read Statement](#)

The Library District is guided by a commitment to information policies that provide appropriate protections to its patrons while being consistent with the Library District's long-standing commitment to the principles of free expression as set forth in the First Amendment to the United States Constitution.