

Internet Use Policy

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The Internet enables the library to provide free information resources beyond the confines of its own collection. It allows access to ideas, information and commentary from around the globe. While it offers a wealth of materials that are personally, professionally and culturally enriching to individuals of all ages, it also enables access to material that may be offensive, disturbing and/or illegal, inaccurate or incomplete. Internet access is filtered in the spirit of the Children's Internet Protection Act. The responsibility for what a minor reads or views on the Internet rests with his/her parents or guardians. Parents or guardians who wish to deny this Internet access may place a restriction on the minor's library card.

The mission of Neill Public Library is to provide free access to the widest possible variety of ideas, information and opinions in an open and nonjudgmental environment. The library has made information available in a variety of formats to meet the diverse needs of our community. To expand and enhance its information sources, Neill Public Library provides Internet access.

Neill Public Library affirms the right of each individual to have access to constitutionally protected material. The Board subscribes to the ideas enunciated in the American Library Association's [Library Bill of Rights](#) as interpreted for [access to electronic information, services, and networks](#).

The Internet, as a global electronic network, enables individuals to search for ideas and information beyond the confines of the library collection. Currently, the Internet is an unregulated medium; it provides a wealth of enriching material but also some that may be erroneous, out-of-date, illegal, or offensive. Library users are the final selectors in using the Internet and are responsible for their individual choices and decisions.

In order to comply with provisions of federal mandates such as the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA), Neill Public Library filters content on all staff, public and wireless connections that use our network. More information on CIPA can be found at <http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/consumerfacts/cipa.html>.

The library also affirms the right and responsibility of parents/guardians to determine and monitor their children's use of library materials and resources, including the Internet. If a parent/guardian does not wish his/her child to have Internet access at the library, (s)he may ask the library to deny access. The library will note this restriction on the child's patron record.

Internet Code of Conduct, Privileges and Responsibilities

- Internet access is free to all library users.
- The library provides filtered Internet access.
- Parents/guardians are ultimately responsible for their children's access on Internet stations.

The following are prohibited:

- Violation of copyright laws or software licenses
- Misrepresenting oneself
- Harassing others
- Installing and running programs or software on the Internet Stations that are not already installed on public Internet stations
- Violation of the computer system security of Neill Public Library or other systems
- Destruction of or damage to equipment, data or software (including creation of viruses)
- Unauthorized use of accounts or network identification assigned to others
- Violation of federal, state or local laws and regulations. Publicly visible display of sexually explicit material is unlawful (RCW 9.68.130)
- Illegal uses of library workstations not included in this document

Internet stations are to be used in a legal manner. Violations may result in the loss of library privileges and/or criminal prosecution or other legal actions. If a patron is a minor his/her parents/guardians will be notified. Situations will be referred to the Library Director for appropriate action, which may include loss of Internet privileges and reporting of the violation to the police.

Reserving and Using Internet Workstations

- You must have a library card to use the Internet. If you do not have a library card you may request a visitor card at the Information Desk.
- Minors under 18 must have parental permission to obtain a library card - parent must be present at the time the card is issued.
- Time on the internet stations is allotted in sessions.
- Children under 7 must be accompanied by an adult.
- No more than 2 people at the computer at one time.
- Latecomers will forfeit their reserved session time if more than 5 minutes late.
- File storage on public workstations is prohibited. Bring your own media such as a USB flash drive to save files. Using media such as a USB drive or other media is at your risk. The library is not responsible for recovering or managing any data stored on media or downloaded off the Internet.
- The library provides express Internet stations for patrons 18 and older. You may be asked to provide identification to verify your age.
- Please respect other's use and privacy.

Web Links Displayed on Neill Public Library Pages

The Neill Public Library's website includes links to external websites that reflect the interests of library users. Key questions are considered before the library posts a link to a web page or web resource. These include:

- Is there a local emphasis?
- Who provides the information, and are they qualified to do so?
- Is it current and regularly maintained?
- Is it easy to use?
- Is it reliable?

Providing links to resources on the web does not mean Neill Public Library endorses the information provided. We consider the website a form of outreach to our patrons. Therefore, links posted on the library website are at the discretion of the outreach staff.

Adopted by the Neill Public Library Board of Trustees on 2/12/1997

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