

RACINE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Rules and Regulations Governing Use of the Internet Workstations

Internet Access

Youth Services: The Internet workstations in the Youth Services Department are intended primarily for children thirteen and under. The Library reserves the right to ask adults and high school students to use the workstations in the Adult Department. Children under the age of eight may use these workstations only when directly supervised by a parent or guardian.

Adult Services: The Internet workstations in the Adult Services Department are for users who are fourteen years of age and older.

Adults with small children are encouraged to use the Internet workstations in the Youth Services Department. If an adult accompanied by a child chooses to use the workstations in the Adult Services Department, that adult assumes full responsibility for any images or text to which the child might be exposed. Whether in the Adult Services Department or Youth Services Department, children under the age of eight must be under the direct supervision of a guardian at all times, as required in the library's *Safe Child Policy*.

In an attempt to provide a level of protection for children from obscene and harmful communication material, the Racine Public Library Board of Trustees has approved installing appropriate "filters" or "blocks" on the Internet workstations for the public in the Youth Services Department. Websites categorized as pornography are being filtered at all Internet workstations. However, the Racine Public Library Board of Trustees recognizes that no filtering software is perfect; it does allow some inappropriate content to inadvertently pass through, and can also block appropriate sites from view. If a filtered website is brought to the Library's attention, staff will review the site; however, staff will not review sites if viewing the content would violate the library's Anti-Harassment Policy.

The Racine Public Library Board of Trustees is concerned that patrons should not be inadvertently exposed to materials and images that they may find personally unsuitable. To reduce the possibility of this occurring, the Library uses privacy screens for the Internet workstations in the Adult Services Department. While these screens provide reasonable privacy for text, such as credit card numbers, users should be aware that these screens do not completely block images from all angles. Users should not send, receive, or display text or graphics which may be reasonably construed as obscene by community standards.

- **Use of External Devices on Library Computers**

External Devices can be connected to library computers with the following restrictions:

- Software cannot be installed or run from, or to support, external devices.
- Only standard Windows compatible devices (those without special drivers) can be used.

- **Time Limits**

Due to the limited number of Internet workstations, members with library cards are limited to three hours per day of Internet access. Software used to monitor time limits and age restrictions requires user's library card number and PIN. Library accounts may only be used by the person whose name is on the account.

The library may need to limit use at any of its workstations temporarily as circumstances arise.

Approved by the Library Board August, 2011; amended February 19, 2015; amended February 18, 2016