The Nyack Library

Internet Use Policy

Use of the Internet is available, free of charge. The Nyack Library assumes no responsibility for any damages, direct or indirect, arising from connection to the Internet. This policy applies to any devices owned by The Nyack Library and any personal devices, (cell phones, tablets, mp3 players, flash drives, etc.) and personal information or data stored on cloud-based applications (iTunes libraries, Google Drive, etc.) The Library makes no guarantees, either expressed or implied, with respect to the quality or content of the information available on the Internet; and cannot monitor, control, sanction or endorse the contents of material, which can change rapidly on the Internet. The Reference librarians will be happy to offer sources for evaluating effective sites. Bookmarks to informational, cultural, educational and recreational sites are set for easy access.

The Library cannot provide assurance that Internet users will have privacy in the materials or communications undertaken via the Internet.

Prohibited usage: Users are not permitted to modify the installed hardware or software. Users must obey all federal, state and local laws in the use of the Internet and must respect the legal protections to data and software provided by copyright and license. Users may not misrepresent themselves or use the Library's computers to make unauthorized entry into any other computer or network. The display of potentially offensive graphics is inappropriate for a public and open environment and is prohibited. The librarian's discretion and judgment will determine appropriate use.

Community Standards: The Internet is an unregulated medium. The Library cannot control or monitor all of the material accessible via the Internet. It is possible that individuals might

access information they personally find offensive or disturbing. Individuals must accept responsibility for determining the suitability of content for themselves and their children.

Internet Safety: The Library attempts to balance every individual's right to freedom of access to information with the safety of children and people of all ages. We offer both filtered and unfiltered Internet computers in the Library. We offer filtered Internet computers with varying levels of restriction in the Library. Filtered Internet stations are provided for adults and teens 14 and older in the Computer Resource Center, blocking only the most offensive sites. Children's and Teen Room computers have higher levels of filtering; however, the Library cannot guarantee the effectiveness of any filtering program. Individuals may be exposed to inappropriate materials when using the Web, email, chat rooms and other forms of Internet communication.

Children's and Teens' use of the Internet:

Parents or legal guardians are responsible for their children's use of the Internet. Parents or legal guardians have the responsibility to discuss the use of the Internet with their children in relation to family values and boundaries, and to monitor their children's use of the Internet. Children who use the Internet unsupervised may be exposed to material their parents/guardians find inappropriate or disturbing. Access to social networking sites (i.e. Facebook, Tumbler, Youtube, etc.) is blocked in the Children's Room.

> **Children's Room:** Children below the sixth grade are only permitted to access the Internet on the computers in the Children's Room. Children under the age of 8 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian in order to use any Internet terminal.

Teen Room: Children in grades 6 through 8 (Middle School) may use the computers in the Teen Room only.

Computer Resource Center: Children in grades 9 through 12 (High School) may use the computers in the Teen Room or the CRC.

Nyack Library Public Computer Terminals Usage

All library patrons are required to provide a valid Ramapo Catskill Library System Library Card to use a computer. Adults and Teens without a Library Card, including out-of-town visitors, may purchase a daily Guest Computer Pass for 50 cents at the Teen and Computer Resource Center service desks.   Children's Guest Passes are also available at the Children's Information Desk.   Library patrons in the Computer Resource Center are permitted to use the public internet computers for up to three hours per day. No extensions will be given beyond the three hours. Usually one individual will be allowed at a terminal at a time. A maximum of two library patrons may use selected stations, at the discretion of library staff. All users must sign the Internet Use Agreement prior to using the Internet.

Staff assistance: All users must have basic computer skills, including the ability to use a mouse, Windows, and an Internet Browser. The Library staff may be able to assist library patrons with some Internet functions, but Library staff cannot offer extensive instructions/explanations about the Internet or personal computer use. Orientation sessions will be available.

Affirmation of Principles and Users' Rights: Access to the Internet is compatible with the Library's endorsement of the Library *Bill of Rights*, the *Freedom to Read*, and the *Freedom to View* statements and with the policies, goals and objectives of this Library. The Library affirms

the following principles and users rights as stated in the American Library Association's Access to Electronic Information and Network:

- Electronic information, services and networks provided by libraries should be readily, equally, and equitably available to all library users.

- Libraries and librarians should not deny or limit access to information available via electronic resources because of its controversial content or because of personal beliefs or fears of confrontation.

- Information retrieved or utilized electronically should be considered constitutionally protected unless determined otherwise by a court with appropriate jurisdiction.

- Ultimately, responsibility for any restrictions of a child's use of the Internet rests solely with his or her parents or legal guardians.

Loss of Privileges: It is not acceptable to use the Nyack Library's Internet for purposes contrary to state or federal laws or so to interfere with or disrupt other users, services or equipment. Such activities will result in the suspension of Internet privileges and may result in criminal prosecution.

Use of the Library's Internet connection is intended for private, non-commercial activities. Sales or marketing of products or services is not permitted.

Information and resources available through the Library's Internet connections are private to the individuals or organizations that own or hold rights to them, unless these owners or holders of rights specifically state otherwise. It is important to respect the legal protection by copyright and licenses to program and data.

Printing Charges:

There are fees for printing from public access computers and they are available upon request.

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