

Mabel C. Fry Public Library

INTERNET POLICY

Revised 2004, 2005, 5/2009, 6/2103, 4/2017, 7/2018, 7/21/21

In response to advances in technology and the changing needs of the community, the Mabel C. Fry Public Library endeavors to develop collections, resources, and services that meet the cultural, informational, recreational, and educational needs of Yukon's diverse multicultural community. It is within this context that the Mabel C. Fry Public Library offers access to the Internet on library computers and with wireless access on personal devices. In order to use the library computers, patrons must sign the Library Internet Agreement, or obtain a guest pass. The agreement is not required to use wireless internet access.

By signing an Internet agreement as part of the library card application process from the Mabel C. Fry Public Library, customers accept responsibility for using Internet services. The federal government provides economic assistance supporting internet access to libraries through e-rate reimbursements, but in so doing requires libraries to filter children under 18 from accessing visual depictions of obscenity, child pornography, or materials harmful to minors (as defined by the Children's Internet Protection Act, Public Law 106-554, Title XVII.) The Mabel C. Fry Public Library accepts this federal assistance and has accordingly implemented technology protection measures which filter all computers' access to the Internet. The customer needs to be aware that the library cannot be responsible for the accuracy or content of materials retrieved from the Internet. The library cannot protect customers from information one may find offensive.

All Internet resources accessible through the library are provided equally to all library users. Provision of access does not, however, indicate library sponsorship or endorsement, nor does it imply responsibility for how information accessed is used by customers. The library cannot be held responsible for customers' use of the Internet.

Parents or guardians, not the library or the staff, are responsible for Internet information selected and/or accessed by their children. Only parents and/or guardians are allowed to restrict their children – and only their children—from access to Internet resources accessible through the library. Parents are advised to supervise their children's Internet sessions. Parents also need to inform their children if there are materials the children are not allowed to access. Parents are asked to discuss the dissemination of personal information on the Internet, plus the safety of e-mail and chat rooms.

To be more specific:

Although the Mabel C. Fry Public Library does attempt to protect one from information that might be offensive, the user needs to realize not all resources on the Internet provide accurate, complete, or current information. Patrons need to be good information consumers, questioning the validity of the information found.

The library will abide by the provisions set forth in the Children's Internet Protection Act.

SUPERVISING CHILDREN'S USE

The public library, unlike schools, does not serve in *loco parentis* (in place of a parent). Library staff cannot act in the place of parents/guardians in providing constant care and supervision of children as they explore the Internet. The responsibility for what minors read or view on the Internet rests with parents and/or guardians.

Parents and guardians may find the following guidelines helpful in ensuring children have positive on-line experiences, whether at home or in the library:

Use the Internet as a family. Join your children in Internet exploration.

Explore the wide range of available information and tell your children about the sites you consider inappropriate for them and counsel them to avoid sites you consider unsuitable.

Provide guidelines for your children on the amount of time they spend online.

Instruct children NEVER to give out personal information (name, address, password, telephone number, credit card number) online.

Teach children to be good online consumers. As with print information consider the source, date, and accuracy of online information. This is especially important when using electronic mail, chat rooms, and other forms of direct electronic communications.

STAFF ASSISTANCE

The library does not train library staff members, on using the Internet. Some staff have a great deal of experience and expertise while others do not. In all cases, library staff will attempt to assist patrons in accessing the Internet to find needed information.

Library staff cannot provide in-depth training concerning Internet computer jargon or personal computer use. We may, however, be able to offer searching suggestions and answer questions. Because of library scheduling, Staff with Internet use expertise may not always be available.

GUIDELINES FOR ACCESSING THE INTERNET AT THE MABEL C FRY LIBRARY

1. Free, open, wireless internet access is available in the library during operating hours. It is also available in the library parking lot and field, west of the library, when the library is closed (24/7/365). The library does not have wireless printing services available at this time.
2. The Internet Access computers are normally available, subject to periodic maintenance at the following times:

9:00 AM – 8:45 PM Monday –Thursday

9:00 AM – 4:45 PM Friday

9:00 AM – 4:45 PM Saturday

3. Use of the Internet Access computers is on a first-come, first –served basis. Internet sign-on and time-keeping are done electronically using time-management software, not by library staff. Patrons will sign-in to use a computer at the reservation station using either their valid library card or guest pass. Patrons with \$5.00 or more in library fees on their account will be denied internet usage until the balance is brought below \$5.00. A guest pass will not be issued to any patron having a library card with \$5.00 or more in library fees on their account. After sign-on, patrons will either be assigned to an available computer or placed on a waiting list. The patron's rank on the waiting list is shown on the reservation station monitor. Those using the Internet access computers are entitled to an initial 1 hour session. Patrons will be electronically

notified prior to the end of their session. If others are waiting to use a computer, the patron's session will be ended by the library's electronic time management software after 1 hour. If no one is waiting to use the computer, patrons will automatically be given 15 more minutes, continuously, until they either sign off or there is someone else waiting to use the computer. All Internet browsing history is automatically removed after each session by the library's time-management software.

3. Minors will not be issued guest passes or allowed to access Social Networking sites.
4. There is no limit to the number of sessions, per patron, per day. The only limit would be due to others using the computers.
5. Patrons cannot send or receive e-mail (electronic mail) using the library's e-mail system.
6. Patrons may not use their own software programs on the Internet Access computers.
7. Patrons may not use the library computers to engage in any activity that constitutes a violation of local, state, or federal laws.
8. If patrons wish to save files, CDs are available from the library staff for a minimal charge. Patrons may also use their own data storage device

Warning: Although we use virus protection on the library computers, this will not completely protect you from the chance of getting a virus on your. Software downloaded from the Internet may contain a virus and you need to have a virus checking software on your computer. The Mabel C. Fry Public Library is not responsible for damage to a patron's storage device or computer, or for any loss of data, damage, or liability that may occur from patron use of the library's computer.

9. The library provides printing, from library computers, at a minimal charge of \$.25 a page.
10. Misuse of the computer or violation of the "Internet Agreement" will result in the loss of computer privileges.

TECHNOLOGY PROTECTION MEASURE

The Library's Internet Users Policy in accordance with the Neighborhoods Children's Internet Protection Act will prohibit users from accessing information harmful to minors via the Internet.

INTERNET SAFETY POLICY

The Library will abide by the requirements set forth in the Neighborhood Children's Internet Protection Act. Therefore, our Internet Usage Policy will:

- (a) restrict access by minors to inappropriate matter on the Internet and World Wide Web
- (b) address the safety and security of minors when using electronic mail, chat rooms, and other forms of direct electronic communications.
- (c) address the unauthorized access, including so-called "hacking and other unlawful activities by minors on-line
- (d) address unauthorized disclosure, use, and dissemination of personal identification information regarding minors
- (e) restrict minors' access to materials harmful to minors