Mitchell Community Public Library Internet Access and Computer Use Policy

Adopted by the Mitchell Community Public Library Board on April 24th, 2017
Updated March 27, 2023

The Mitchell Community Public Library (MCPL) is a dynamic public resource with a knowledgeable and friendly staff that strives to provide needed materials, relevant services and up-to-date information.

The library strongly supports the concept of lifelong learning – that learning does not begin or cease with formal education but enhances the quality of life at any age.

To support its mission, in addition to the standard library services, MCPL offers to its users computers, free access to the Internet, free WiFi, and one-on-one assistance with basic computing using the library computers as well as using any personal devices.

Terms of Use

All users of the library computer equipment and electronic resources, including Wi-Fi service, are expected to use them in a lawful, ethical and responsible manner. Patrons agree to:

- Pay for all printouts.
- Respect copyright and licensing agreements for the electronic resources used.
- Provide identification and/or library card information when using library computers.
- Minors only: Provide library card information or have a guardian present to approve computer use.

Unacceptable use of library computer equipment and electronic resources will result in suspension or termination of the user's access to these resources. Unacceptable use includes, but is not limited to:

- Accessing sites containing child pornography or display on the computer any images of child pornography.
- Violating federal, state or local obscenity laws including the viewing or printing of sexually explicit materials.
- Engaging in unlawful conduct, such as fraud, harassment, theft or any criminal activity.

- Misrepresenting themselves online, using demeaning or threatening language, or attempting to engage in sexually explicit chat or messaging with anyone.
- Abusing, modify, or harm computer equipment and/or electronic resources.

Filtering

As the recipient of e-rate funding, the Library must comply with the requirements of the Child Internet Protection Act (CIPA). All Library computers are filtered. In addition, the computers designated for the use of minors have restricted access to the Internet.

Adults cannot use the computers for minors and minors cannot use the computers designated for the use of adults.

A Special Note to Parents: The library believes that the Internet should be available to minors under the age of 18. In accordance with CIPA, filtering software is used; however, filters are not foolproof. It is the parent's responsibility to provide the necessary supervision to ensure that their child uses the Internet in an appropriate and safe manner.

Users' Confidentiality

Users should be aware that the Internet is not a secure medium and information access by third parties can occur. However, the MCPL treats information in its user files and transmission logs as confidential. Such information will be released only for an administrative need or as required by law. Operating systems and software application programs may be limited for security, management and budgetary reasons.

The Library reserves the right to inspect and/or observe the use made of its equipment and resources for the purposes of enforcement of these policies. Unlawful use, misuse or abuse of computer equipment or materials will result in the suspension or termination of the user's access to these resources.

The Internet access and computer use policy will be reviewed by the Board of Trustees on an annual basis.

This policy is consistent with MCPL policies on material access, collection and use. The Library will be the sole arbiter of what constitutes a violation of this policy.

Staff use of computers is governed by guidelines found in the MCPL Personnel Policy.

Limitations of Use

The MCPL may place limitations on computer usage to allocate access as equitably as possible or for administration purposes.