

LEWIS & CLARK LIBRARY ELECTRONIC ACCESS & ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY

The Lewis & Clark Public Library endeavors to develop collections, resources, and services that meet the cultural, informational, recreational, and educational needs of our diverse, multicultural communities. It is within this context that the Lewis & Clark Public Library offers access to the Internet and other electronic resources.

As an agency of government, the Lewis & Clark Public Library can not monitor, control or impose limits on information accessed electronically. The Internet is a global entity with a highly diverse user population. It provides access to a wide variety of information and services whose contents may or may not please, interest, or offend. The Library does not censor materials or protect library patrons from Internet-based information.

There is sexually explicit material and other possibly controversial information on the Internet. Not all sources on the Internet provide accurate, complete, or current information. Patrons must exercise judgment and evaluate for themselves the value of the information found online. The library makes no guarantees regarding the quality, authenticity, or accuracy of information accessed online except on the library website at www.lewisandclarklibrary.org.

All Internet resources accessible through the Library are provided equally to all library users. Parents or legal guardians, not the Library or its staff, are responsible for the Internet information selected and/or used by their minor children (under the age of eighteen (18) MCA 41-1-101). Parents or legal guardians – and only parents or legal guardians– may restrict their minor children – and only their minor children – from Internet resources accessible through the Library. Parents or legal guardians are advised to supervise their minor children’s Internet sessions.

Library users are expected to act in accord with the following guidelines based on common sense, decency, and civility applied to the networked computing environment.

Library users are prohibited from violating copyright law, theft, file theft, violating others’ privacy, deliberately crashing or disabling Library or others’ workstations or computer systems, modifying files without authorization, altering data, introducing viruses or any other type of harmful or damaging programs, damaging files, interfering with the work of other users, maliciously disrupting network services, harassing or intimidating others, concealing or misrepresenting their name or affiliation to mask irresponsible or offensive behavior, sending abusive or patently offensive or unwanted material to others, penetration or attempting to bypass any of the security on the library computers or systems, reselling bandwidth, or any other illegal acts promulgated from or targeting the Library’s computers or computer systems.

These activities are prohibited on devices and systems on the Library's local area, wide area, and wireless networks, web sites, or other computer or network resources managed by the library. Any patron owned device that is connected to the library's networks or systems must also abide by this policy.

If abuse of computer systems occurs, those responsible for such abuse will be held legally accountable. Misuse of Library computer or network resources may constitute trespass or disruptive behavior, both of which carry legal consequences under the Ordinances of the City of Helena and Montana State Law.

If any device owned by a patron is discovered to be in violation of this policy, the patron and the patron's offending device will be denied access to the library's network.

By use of the Library's systems the user agrees that the Library can assume no liability for any loss or damage to the user's data and hardware or for any other liability for damage or injury arising from the Library's provision of the service or consequence arising there from. Users indemnify and hold harmless the Lewis & Clark Library, the City of Helena and Lewis and Clark County against any liability for damage or loss arising from use or misuse of the services provided by or through the Library.

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