



Edith B. Siegrist Vermillion Public Library
18 Church Street, Vermillion, SD, 57069 ▪ (605) 677-7060 ▪ www.vermillionpubliclibrary.org

Internet and Computer Use Policy

The Internet is an unregulated global information resource. The Vermillion Public Library has no control over information that can be accessed through the Internet and cannot guarantee the accuracy and/or authenticity of information accessed through this resource. Users who find information or subject matter that is erroneous, out-of-date, illegal and/or offensive should contact the original producer or distributor of that work directly. The Library offers wireless internet service which is open and unsecured.

Filtering by Vermillion Public Library

In accordance with the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA), all library computers are subject to filtering. The filter is set to screen out sites which may reasonably be construed as obscene, as that term is defined in section 1460 of title 18, United States Code; or child pornography, as that term is defined in section 2256 of title 18, United States Code; or harmful to minors as defined in section 1703, Pub. L. 106-544. Users 18 years of age and older may request that a staff member disable the filtering software for bona fide research or other lawful purposes.

Internet Access by Minors: Regulations and Restrictions

Vermillion Public Library provides computer access to minors, including filtered access to the Internet. To the extent practical, steps shall be taken to promote the safety and security of users of Vermillion Public Library's online computer network when using electronic mail, chat rooms, instant messaging, and other forms of direct electronic communications.

Specifically, as required by CIPA, prevention of inappropriate network usage includes: (a) unauthorized access, including so-called 'hacking,' and other unlawful activities; and (b) unauthorized disclosure, use, and dissemination of personal identification information regarding minors.

Parental Responsibilities

Vermillion Public Library strongly suggests parents supervise their minor children's Internet use since filtering software may not be able to filter all information that may be harmful to minors. Some parents may deem that certain unfiltered materials are also unsuitable for their minor children. Vermillion Public Library also encourages parents to discuss the use of the Internet with their minor children in relation to family values and boundaries. Parents and legal guardians are responsible for the information accessed by their children.

Internet Use - Library Rules

The Library expects patrons to use the Internet in a responsible manner respecting the rights of others and Library rules of behavior. Internet computers are located in public areas used by library patrons of all ages, backgrounds, sensitivities, and values. Individuals are expected to consider this when accessing potentially controversial information and images. The Library does not condone the use of library equipment to access material that is obscene, features pornography, or is harmful to minors. The use of the Internet is a privilege, not a right, and unacceptable use can result in suspension or cancellation of the privilege.

Users may not engage in actions that include, but are not limited to:

- destroying, altering, preventing, or interfering with the configuration of the Library computers
- violating copyright or software license agreements
- ignoring time, printing, and workstation occupancy limits
- invading or violating another Library user's privacy
- sending, receiving, printing, or displaying text or graphics that may reasonably be construed as obscene or pornographic
- viewing any site that may create a disruptive environment for other library users or staff
- engaging in any activity that is deliberately offensive or creates an intimidating or hostile environment.
- misrepresenting oneself, by access code, password, or signature
- any illegal, criminal, or unethical purposes

Vermillion Public Library reserves the right to disable or restrict access to any website that violates library/city rules or policies, disrupts library operations, disrupts its Internet or network connectivity, or causes damage to its computer hardware.

Noncompliance with this policy may result in revocation of computer privileges and/or library use privileges. Unlawful activities can be referred to the appropriate legal authority to handle.

It is assumed that the use of the Library's computers constitutes acceptance of the Policy.

Disclaimer

Vermillion Public Library is not responsible for any damages, direct or indirect, or for any liability that may arise from a patron's use of the library's Internet services or information obtained through the Internet. Internet users should be aware that the Internet is not a secure medium. It is possible for third parties to obtain information regarding an individual user's search activities. Users should be very cautious about providing personal information over the internet.

Edith B. Siegrist Vermillion Public Library:

- cannot guarantee confidentiality over the Internet and users who enter personal information do so at their own risk
- is not responsible for work or information lost due to computer or system malfunction, computer session timeout, or failure to save information
- is not responsible for misplaced or stolen equipment
- is not responsible for controlling children's Internet use

Adoption

This Internet Use and Safety Policy was adopted by the Vermillion Public Library Board of Trustees at a public meeting, following normal public notice, on September 18, 2020.