

INTERNET POLICY AND PHILOSOPHY OF USE

Welcome to Spencer Public Library and the Internet.

The library strives to enrich the process of life-long learning for all the community. Our mission is to provide access to materials, services, and information, which help residents of Spencer and the surrounding area meet their personal, educational, and professional needs.

The Internet offers a global wealth of information. Spencer Public Library's philosophy of intended use for the Internet is for research, education, and recreation with major emphasis given to valid, structured information. It is not to be used for unethical, unauthorized or illegal purposes. Internet use to obtain criminally violent, classified, or pornographic information is expressly forbidden. Respecting these principles will help keep this resource available to you and all the community to share.

The use of the Internet is a privilege and not a right. By signing the agreement form for Spencer Public Library's Internet Policy, you are agreeing to abide by all the rules outlined in the policy. If you don't understand any portion of the policy, please ask the library staff to clarify the rule.

Any policy covering varied use by thousands of customers will need to evolve. Changes to the policy will be publicized by signs at the terminals, in the library newsletter, and through the media. Each user is responsible for staying abreast of policies and procedures as posted. Users should also be aware that the password will be changed as needed for security purposes. New passwords can be obtained from front desk staff.

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1. Anyone with a valid Spencer Public Library card has access to the internet on the library's computers and must abide by this policy. Internet use is denied if a patron is responsible for an outstanding bill on library materials. Privileges will be restored when the bill has been satisfied or all materials are returned in good condition.
2. The library permits personal e-mail only if the patron uses his/her own web-based e-mail account. Internet use to obtain criminally violent or classified information is illegal.
3. No one may send, receive, or display text or graphics that may reasonably be construed as obscene. If caught purposely browsing a pornographic site, individuals must leave the library. They will lose all LIBRARY privileges for one year. Library staff will have final authority in judging the nature of a site.
4. Patrons are forbidden from loaning, borrowing, or sharing a library card for Internet purposes. Patrons using falsified cards obtained through theft, lying, or the use of an alias will immediately lose their Internet privileges for six months.
5. Parents, not the library staff, are responsible for the Internet information selected by their children. They may restrict their children, and only their children, from access to Internet resources. Parents and their children are encouraged to discuss the use of the Internet in relation to family values and boundaries. Parents need to stress the danger of any disclosure of personal information over the Internet.
6. Use of the Internet is usually on a first-come, first-serve basis, but computers may be reserved at the staff's discretion. The library reserves the right to ask those using the Internet for recreation to relinquish the computer for those doing research, but only when necessary.
7. A network printer is located under the front desk. Printed copies cost 20 cents per page for black & white. Color copies cost \$1.00 per page. After agreeing to the number of print jobs, pages, and color with library staff, users will pay for all sheets actually printed.
8. Individuals may not modify or gain access to files, passwords, or data belonging to others. Individuals may not seek unauthorized access to any computer system, damage or alter software components of any network or database. The library assumes no responsibility for damages arising from its connections to the Internet. Individuals may not harass libel, slander, misrepresent oneself as another user, or plagiarize copyrighted information on the Internet. Not all the information on the Internet is accurate, current or complete. The library reserves the right to ask individuals to discontinue the display of information and images that violate federal law and this use agreement.