

Wall Community Library
Internet Use and Safety Policy 2025 – 2027
With addition of South Dakota House Bill 1197 in 2024

First Draft Update 9-28-17

Adopted by Board at October 2017 meeting

Adopted by Library Board of Trustees at the July 8, 2020 meeting

Approved by Library Board of Trustees at January 12, 2022 meeting

Addition of South Dakota House Bill 1197

Unofficially approved by Library Board members on 12-14-2024

The Wall Community (changed from Public on 9/19/2020 LMH) Library offers in-library access to electronic information, services and networks as part of its mission to meet the personal, professional and educational information needs of area residents of all ages. In order to provide this service, the Library allows people of all ages access to the Internet on Library computers and on their own personal devices via a public wireless connection.

SAFETY:

Prevention of access to Inappropriate Material:

It is the policy of the Wall Community Library (hereafter “the Library”) to use technology protection measures in an attempt to:

1. Prevent access to or transmission of inappropriate material via Internet, electronic mail or other forms of electronic communication
2. Prevent unauthorized access and other unlawful online activity
3. Prevent unauthorized online disclosure, use or dissemination of personal identification of minors and
4. Comply with Children’s Internet Protection Act (CIPA)
5. Comply with South Dakota House Bill 1197 to restrict access to obscene materials

To the extent practical, technology protection measures shall be used to block or filter Internet content. Specifically, as required by the Children’s Internet Protection Act (CIPA), blocking shall be applied on all public computers to visual depictions of material deemed obscene, child pornography or harmful to minors as defined in the CIPA.

Only Library users 18 years or older may request unfiltered access to the Internet on Library computer workstations. Staff may ask for photo identification to verify age in compliance with CIPA.

The Library does not accept responsibility for any information found on the Internet. The Internet resources are not selected or reviewed by Library staff. Therefore, users may occasionally encounter material online they may find false or inappropriate. The filtering software used by the Library is not infallible. Library users must exercise their own judgment when using the Internet and when supervising children’s use of the Internet.

For purposes of this policy, obscene matter or materials is as defined in South Dakota Codified Law 22-24-27(11):

- (a) The dominant theme of which, taken as a whole, appeals to the prurient interest; (b) which is patently offensive because it affronts contemporary community standards relating to the description or representation of sado-masochistic abuse or sexual conduct; and
- (c) lacks serious literary, artistic, political or scientific value.”

Prevention of Inappropriate Use:

To the extent practical, steps shall be taken to promote the safety and security of users of the Library online computer network when using electronic mail, chat rooms, instant messaging and other forms of direct electronic communications. Inappropriate network usage is prohibited. Specifically, this includes, but is not limited to:

1. Violating federal, state or local laws and regulations, including those governing obscenity, child pornography and materials harmful to minors
2. Violating copyright laws or database license agreements
3. Displaying or printing graphics or text reasonably considered obscene or harmful to minors
4. Engaging in any activity is deliberately offensive, obscene or creating an intimidating, disruptive, or hostile environment for library users or library staff
5. Invading the privacy of individuals, including misrepresenting oneself as another user
6. Unauthorized disclosure, use, or dissemination of personal identification information regarding minors
7. Attempting to modify or to gain unauthorized access to resources or entities, or to files, passwords or data belonging to others
8. Altering, disrupting or damaging equipment, software, computer settings or configurations or Library system performance

Please remember:

1. Use of the Library Internet connection is not guaranteed to be private. The Library may be required to provide information about patron library activities, including Internet use, to law enforcement authorities
2. The Library is not responsible for the availability or content of websites other than the Library's own website.
3. The Library is not responsible for damages to equipment or data on a user's personal computer resulting from websites accessed or from software or data downloaded using the Library Internet connection
4. The Library is not responsible for security breaches of a user's data or personal accounts. If patron accesses personal financial accounts, for example, they do so at their own risk. Do not store or save work on any Library public computer.

Children's Use of the Internet:

A child's use of the Internet in the Library is the responsibility of the child's parent or guardian. Parents or guardians are encouraged to learn about safe use of the Internet and develop rules for their children regarding sharing of personal information using email, social networking, playing online games and chat sites. It is not the responsibility of Library staff to monitor all content accessed.

To the extent possible, Library staff will supervise and monitor usage of the Technology Protection Measure (DNS filters) in use on the public computer network and access to the Internet in accordance with this policy and the CIPA.

Preliminary consideration for material reconsideration shall be the Library Director or a small group designated for material reconsideration. Final determination and disposition as to removal of an obscene item from internet access is made by the Library Board.

Items cannot be unilaterally removed by Library staff without following proper procedures. The Library Director enforces the policy and understands the impact the policy will have on library patrons.

ADDITIONAL TERMS OF USE:

All users are expected to use the electronic resources of the Library in a responsible manner, including but not limited to:

1. Patrons will sign in for computer use
2. Patrons will adhere to the 30-minute time limit on use of Library public computers. If no patrons are waiting, the time limit may be waived at the discretion of Library staff
3. Patrons will pay ten cents (\$.10) per page for print outs and copies
4. Failure to comply with this policy may result in the loss of library privileges

NOTE: This Internet Use and Safety Policy was approved by the Wall Community Library Board of Trustees following normal public notice at regular Quarterly Board Meetings