

Library Internet Policy

Access

The Reuben Hoar Library offers access to the Internet equally to all users without charge.

In providing public access to the Internet, the library subscribes to the principles of intellectual freedom expressed in the American Library Association's LIBRARY BILL OF RIGHTS, FREEDOM TO READ, and FREEDOM TO VIEW statements and its interpretations of these documents. The Internet offers a wealth of material that enables the Library to enhance and supplement collections. While much of the information on the Internet is enriching, there may be material that is inaccurate, out-of-date, controversial, offensive or disturbing to some individuals, or material that may be illegal. Websites and domain names can change rapidly and unpredictably. Reuben Hoar Library does not and could not reasonably control or monitor access to material that may be accessible on the Internet and is not responsible for the sites users reach.

Library staff will not monitor, control, or restrict anyone's access to equipment or the range of information available within the limits of State and/or Federal law. Library patrons are responsible for their own choices and decisions while using the Internet. The reading, viewing, and hearing activity of children is ultimately the responsibility of their parents/guardians, who guide and oversee their own children's development.

Provision of Internet service does not constitute any endorsement by the Reuben Hoar Library.

The library shall have no liability for direct, indirect or consequential damages related to the use of information accessed on the Internet from library equipment.

Public library workstations are not private or secure. There should be no expectation of privacy on public workstations. Please use at your own risk.

Personal Data

The library will not disclose, use, or disseminate any personal information regarding Internet users without a court order. Users are encouraged to clear history and log out of the Internet browser as an additional privacy protection. All users are asked to respect the privacy of other users and not attempt to censor or comment upon what others are viewing.

Laws, Rules, and Policies

Users of library computing resources must comply with federal and state laws, library rules and policies and the terms of applicable contracts including software licenses while using library computing resources. Examples of applicable laws, rules and policies include the laws of libel, privacy, copyright, trademark, obscenity and child pornography, the Electronic Communications Privacy Act and the Computer Fraud and Abuse Act.

Users who engage in electronic communications with persons in other states or countries or on other systems or networks may also be subject to the laws of those jurisdictions and the rules and policies of those other systems and networks.

Users must not use computing resources to gain unauthorized access to local or remote computers or to impair or damage the operations of Reuben Hoar Library computers, networks, PC workstations or peripherals. This includes blocking communication lines and running, installing or sharing virus programs. Attempts to circumvent data protection or other security measures are not allowed.

Users of library computers are expected to follow general library guidelines around respectful use. Misuse of computers or Internet access will result in loss of computer privileges. Violators of computer use policies and procedures may lose library privileges. All violations will be dealt with in a serious and appropriate manner. Illegal acts involving library computers or Internet access may also be subject to prosecution by local, state or federal authorities.

Approved by
Reuben Hoar Library Trustees
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