

Cranbury Public Library

Internet Use Policy

Introduction

The Cranbury Public Library provides free Internet access to the global network's vast storehouse of data to address the diverse information needs of the Cranbury community. Timely information is often only available through the Internet and it is hoped that library users — particularly those having no other access to the Internet will take advantage of this valuable resource.

Caveats

Cranbury Public Library Internet users should be aware that:

- Some information on the Internet may be inaccurate, incomplete, dated, offensive or even illegal and all information must be carefully evaluated by the user for validity and appropriateness before use.
- The Internet is not a completely secure medium. Information about Internet users' activities may sometimes be obtained by third parties. Users should evaluate the security of their Internet communications before divulging information that they would like kept private.
- The Internet can be the source of computer viruses and other harmful software components. Users are responsible for all direct and indirect damages resulting from their downloading or distributing harmful components from the Internet by means of Internet access provided by the Cranbury Public Library.
- The Cranbury Public Library does not monitor or control the content of material accessed through its Internet connections and assumes no responsibility for any direct or indirect damages resulting from connections it provides to the Internet. The Library makes no expressed or implied guarantee with respect to the quality or content of information accessed on the Internet. The provision of access does not mean or imply endorsement of any information or point of view accessed on the Internet
- The Cranbury Public Library does not provide E-mail accounts.
- Information about the use of Internet resources by specific users will not be released unless mandated by law or required for the efficient and effective operation of the Library.

Rules for Internet Use

The Cranbury Public Library's Internet workstations are located in an open public area shared by individuals of all ages and backgrounds. Users of these workstations must utilize them and conduct themselves in a manner that respects the rights and privacy of others and in a manner that does not disturb other users or library staff, interfere with library operations, or violate federal state or local laws or regulations. Users may not:

- Act in a deliberately offensive, threatening, harassing or abusive manner or create an intimidating or hostile environment for other users or library staff.
- Invade the privacy of other users or library staff.
- Display, send, receive or print text images or graphics that are harmful to minors, harassing, defamatory, obscene (as defined in section 1460, title 18 of the US Code and New Jersey Statute 2C:34-2 and 3), or child pornography (as defined in section 2256, title 18 of the US Code and New Jersey Statute 2C: 24-4).
- Violate copyright, intellectual property or licensing laws, regulations or agreements.
- Gain unauthorized access to or damage, alter or degrade any computing or communications equipment networks, peripherals, software, passwords, data, configurations or other resources.
- Assume another individual's identity.
- Violate any other applicable federal, state or local laws or regulations.

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The Cranbury Public Library has limited resources available to provide Internet access. In order to ensure equitable access to these resources, business/commercial uses of library Internet resources are prohibited and all users must follow the Internet Workstation Usage Rules defined by the Library Director.

The Cranbury Public Library reserves the right to terminate any Internet session and limit or eliminate users' subsequent access privileges at its discretion.

Children's Internet Protection

The Cranbury Public Library cares deeply about children. It cannot however, act in the place of parents or guardians. Whether children are using the public library computers or the computers in the school media room, the Library staff cannot continuously monitor or supervise their activities on the Internet or accurately anticipate the judgments of parents or guardians about appropriate Internet access. There is no software or hardware that will effectively allow children to access all Internet sites that individual parents want their children to access while at the same time preventing access to all the sites these same parents want to prohibit their children from visiting. In order to ensure that children have both an enriching and a safe experience when using the Internet, parents should:

- Spend time with their child at the library visiting Internet sites that they approve.
- Discuss with their child which sites and topics are off limits and what, if any, chat rooms they are permitted to join.
- Discuss with their child any sites they have visited unsupervised to reinforce which sites are approved and which topics are off limits.
- Address any negative experiences the child may have had.
- Encourage their child to seek the advice and help of library staff whenever they have questions or doubts.
- Tell their child to never give out identifying personal information such as full name, address, telephone number, town, school name, parents' names, credit card numbers or passwords.
- Make sure their child knows to never meet with strangers they have met on the Web.

The Cranbury Public Library Director is available to advise parents on safe and productive use of the Internet by children.

The Cranbury Public Library Board of Trustees will periodically review and update these policies.

.Policy Approved by the Cranbury Public Library Board of Trustees: June 14, 2001

Approved as amended: April 10, 2008