

Emmaus Public Library Policy on Internet Access

The Emmaus Public Library's Internet access is provided to the public as part of the library's information service. Patrons are encouraged to explore the Internet on their own or with help from the library staff. The library provides a dedicated high-speed link to the Internet with hardware and software for public use of these resources. Wireless access to the network is available for those patrons who have their own laptop computers.

The library does not provide public access to most subscription services or access to direct personal communication services, such as chat lines. Introductory overview classes on how to use computers, software, or the Internet are offered occasionally.

All patrons using network resources in the Emmaus Public Library must exhibit a willingness to limit time on computer systems. Internet users are expected to use the Internet as an educational resource. The following procedures and guidelines are used to help ensure appropriate use of the Internet at the Emmaus Public Library.

Minor Use of the Internet

- a. Minors shall not access material that is obscene, pornographic, child pornography, "harmful to minors", or otherwise inappropriate for educational uses.
- b. Minors shall not engage in any illegal activities on the Internet.
- c. Minors should use caution in their use of electronic mail, chat rooms, and other forms of direct electronic communications, as these forms of communication can expose minors to dangerous situations.
- d. Minors should never disclose personal information, such as name, school, address, and telephone number to strangers on the Internet.

Any violation of library policy and rules may result in loss of library-provided access to the Internet. Additional disciplinary action may be determined in keeping with existing procedures and practices regarding inappropriate language or behavior. When and where applicable, law enforcement agencies may be involved.

Adult Use of the Internet

- a. Adults shall not access material that is obscene or is child pornography.
- b. Internet workstations cannot be used for any fraudulent or unlawful purpose, including any activities prohibited under any applicable federal, Pennsylvania, or local laws, including activities in violation of 18 Pa. Cons. Stat. Sec.5903.

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Enforcement of policy

- a. The Emmaus Public Library uses a technology protection measure which blocks or filters Internet access to some Internet sites that are not in accordance with the policy of the Emmaus Public Library.
- b. The technology protection measure that blocks or filters Internet access may be disabled by a professional library staff member for bona fide research purposes by an adult.
- c. A professional library staff member may override the technology protection measure that blocks or filters Internet access for a minor to access a site with legitimate educational value that is wrongly blocked by the technology protection measure that blocks or filters Internet access.

The Emmaus Public Library Internet Acceptable Use Policy, Approved by the Board of Trustees, February 19, 2002, revised