

Computer and Internet Access and Usage

Purpose: The Kling Memorial Library Board of Trustees establishes the policy to ensure appropriate use of Internet resources and computers within the library. The Kling Memorial Library provides free public access to the Internet as an informational, educational, and recreational resource.

Responsibilities of the Library:

The library has no means or statutory authority to assure that only constitutionally protected material is accessed by the public. The authority to determine what is obscene rests with the Grundy County attorney (Sec 728.6, Code of Iowa) not with the staff of the Kling Memorial Library. Public libraries are exempted under Sec 728.7, Code of Iowa. The availability of information does not constitute endorsement of the content by the Kling Memorial Library. The Kling Memorial Library expressly disclaims any liability or responsibility arising from access to or use of information obtained through the Internet, or any consequences thereof.

As stated in the American Library Association's State on Library Use of Filtering Software "the use of filtering software to block access to constitutionally protected speech violates the Library Bill of Rights;" therefore, the Kling Memorial Library will not impose blocking or filtering software to limit access to Internet sites. Filtering software has technological limitations; it cannot always adapt to the varying ages and maturity levels of individual users, nor guarantee blocking of what some may consider "objectionable" material.

Responsibilities of Library Users

Privacy in using the Internet in the library cannot be guaranteed. There exists a possibility of inadvertent viewing by others. Library users are urged to respect the sensibilities of others when accessing information that may reasonably be offensive to someone.

The Library Board of Trustees and the library staff expect all use of electronic information resources such as the Internet will be responsible and consistent with the purpose for which these resources are provided. This includes:

1. Using resources for educational, informational, and recreational purposes only; not for unauthorized, illegal, or unethical purposes. This will result in immediate loss of computer privileges.
2. Respecting the privacy of others by not misrepresenting oneself as another user, by not attempting to modify or gain access to any computer system, or damaging or altering software components of any network database.
3. Further respecting the privacy of others using public access stations at the Kling Memorial by not interfering with their use.
4. Making only authorized copies of copyrighted or licensed material.
5. Not making unauthorized changes to the set up or configuration of the software or hardware.

The Kling Memorial Library assumes no responsibility or liability for the use of the Internet by anyone. All responsibility for a child under the age of 18 using the Internet rests with the parent, guardian, or caregiver to determine what is appropriate for their child only. The library does not act in place or in absence of the parent and is not responsible for enforcing any restrictions which a parent or guardian may place on a minor's use of the Internet. In addition, the library accepts no responsibility for information on screens that may be inadvertently viewed by others.

Just as the library has no control over the uses of print material by the public and because the library does not endorse any particular point of view with regard to print or audio/video materials, so too does the library not endorse material found on the Internet. Selection policies, which serve to govern a library's purchased materials, do not apply to material accessed electronically.

Staff may ask users to remove themselves from library equipment or Internet access if they observe any behavior which they judge to be in conflict with this policy. Misuse of the library computers or Internet access may result in suspension of Internet access.

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