

Redwood City Public Library Policy on Using the Internet

Internet Policy:

The Redwood City Public Library is a learning center for the community and a place where people come for the discovery of ideas. The Internet is one of the essential sources the Library uses to achieve this mission.

Like traditional library collections, the Internet provides a gateway to a vast array of information and knowledge from around the world. Unlike traditional library collections, however, there is no Internet gatekeeper, so not all information found on the Internet is accurate, complete, up-to-date, or legal. The Internet also contains controversial material that some users may find disturbing, inflammatory, or philosophically and morally offensive.

The Library cannot control what material is available via the Internet. Nor can the Library or its staff censor the Internet or restrict the right of adults to retrieve information contained on it. This is in conformity with the free speech provisions of the First Amendment to the United States constitution, which prevent government agencies, such as public libraries, from enforcing content-based restrictions on access to speech, including Internet speech.

The Library strives to create an environment that promotes responsible use of the Internet through training classes, lists of recommended websites, and individual staff assistance.

The Redwood City Public Library affirms the right of adults to access the Internet through Library facilities without restriction. The Library does not monitor or control adult patrons' use of the Internet or any communications sent through the Library's Internet terminals.

The Redwood City Public Library affirms both the right and the responsibility of parents and legal guardians to limit or control access by their children to materials in the Library, including materials on the Internet, in accordance with individual family beliefs.

To help prevent the accidental retrieval of materials some patrons may find offensive, the Library will make available filtering software on all Internet terminals. These filters work as follows:

- **Internet Use by Adults:** It is the responsibility of each adult patron to decide whether to enable filtering software. Filtering is disabled for adult Library patrons unless they elect to enable it.
- **Internet Use by Children:** Filtering is enabled for children age 14 and under unless their parents or legal guardians indicate in writing that filtering should be disabled for their children.

The Library has no control over the effectiveness of its filtering software. The Library does not guarantee that its filtering software is effective or error-free. Neither is the Library responsible for the inadvertent restriction of access to desirable or necessary information that may result from the use of filtering software.

Library patrons are reminded that the use of the Library's Internet terminals for the transmission, dissemination, and/or duplication of information is regulated under various state and federal laws. It is illegal to display pornographic material to minors, and obscenity and child-pornography are illegal under any circumstances. Patrons must also respect all copyright laws and licensing agreements pertaining to software files and other materials obtained via the Internet. The Library expects all patrons to comply with such laws.

*Library Board of Trustees
Redwood City Public Library
Adopted: June 13, 2000
Last Reviewed: June 11, 2017*