

Baraboo Public Library Internet Use Policy

The Baraboo Public Library considers its endorsement of the Library Bill of Rights and the Freedom to Read documents to apply to the use of electronic information.

Disclaimer

The Internet offers access to ideas, information, and commentary from around the world that can be personally, professionally, and culturally enriching. However, not all sources on the Internet are accurate, complete, or up-to-date. It is possible that individuals might access information that they find personally offensive or disturbing. The Internet is a global entity that does not fall under the control or governance of any single agency, government, or organization. The availability of networked information via library terminals does not constitute the Library's endorsement of the content of that information. The Library does not warrant information found on the Internet to be accurate, authoritative, factual, timely, or useful for patrons' purposes. If any patron believes that information obtained via Library terminals is inaccurate or offensive the patron should contact the original producer or distributor of the information.

The Library does not select the material on the Internet and has no means or statutory authority to assure that only constitutionally protected material is available on the Internet. The authority to determine what is illegal content rests with the courts as defined in Wisconsin and federal statutes.

Access, use, or dissemination of information via the Internet in the Library is the responsibility of the user. In the case of minors, it is a joint responsibility of the user and the parent or guardian. Because parents or guardians may feel that information available through the Internet is not suitable for viewing by children in their care, supervision is advised.

Supervising children's use

The public library, unlike schools, does not serve *in loco parentis* (in place of parent). Librarians cannot act in the place of parents in providing constant care and supervision of children as they explore the Internet. Baraboo Public Library supports the right for each family to decide what appropriate Internet use is for their children. The responsibility for what minors read or view on the Internet rests with parents or guardians.

Guidelines for computer use

The Library may set limits so that all patrons seeking access will have an appropriate opportunity. The Library reserves the right to end an Internet session when time limits are exceeded.

- Computers are available only during open hours and can be scheduled on either a walk-in basis or in advance.
- The Library assumes no liability for any loss or damage to users' data or media, nor for any personal damage or injury whatsoever incurred as a result of using the Library's electronic resources. This includes, but is not limited to, damage or injury sustained from invasions of the user's privacy.

Legal and acceptable uses

The library's computers may be used only for legal and acceptable purposes. Users of all ages must abide by the following restrictions. Unacceptable uses include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Transmitting threatening or harassing materials
- Libeling, slandering, or maliciously offending, including sexually harassing other library users or staff
- Accessing or displaying graphics or other material that is sexually explicit
- Misrepresenting oneself as another user
- Attempting to modify or gain access to files, passwords, or data belonging to others
- Attempting to crash, degrade the performance of, or gain unauthorized access to the Library's computer systems and networks
- Modifying or damaging equipment, software, or data belonging to the library or other users
- Exposing children to harmful materials. Sec. 948.11 of the Wisconsin Statutes, among other things, makes it a crime to expose children to pictures or images of nudity, sexually explicit conduct, or physical torture or brutality that appeal to the prurient, shameful, or morbid interests of children; that are patently offensive to prevailing adult standards regarding materials suitable for children, or lack serious literary, artistic, political, scientific, or educational value for children.

These restrictions also apply in email and social media environments accessed through Library computers.

If an individual or group of Internet users creates a disturbance that limits the effective use of the Library by others, they will be asked to correct their behavior, disband, and/or leave the building as appropriate. Misuse or abuse of the computers or Internet access will result in suspension of access privileges. A copy of the Baraboo Public Library Unacceptable Conduct Policy is available upon request. Illegal uses of computers may also be subject to prosecution by local, state, or federal authorities.

Copyright

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Reevaluation of the Internet Use Policy

This policy supersedes and replaces previously dated policies.

Adopted by the Baraboo Public Library Board of Trustees, July 1, 2002

Revised November 8, 2005

Revised June 14, 2011

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