

Elkhart Lake Public Library – Internet Acceptable Use Policy

The Elkhart Lake Public Library ensures that its patrons have the right and means to free and open access to ideas and information, which are fundamental to a democracy. Elkhart Lake Public Library provides public Internet workstations for all patrons. While it offers access to materials that are personally, professionally and culturally enriching to individuals of all ages; it also enables access to some materials that may be inaccurate, offensive, and/or illegal. Responsibility for selection of sites visited and links followed rests with the user and not with the Elkhart Lake Public Library.

How to access the library internet

Log in using EasiCat library card number & pin or guest pass

- Standard circulation policies apply.
- Children under the age of 18 must have a permission slip signed by parent/guardian.
- Guest passes are available with a photo ID.
- Internet use is denied if patron has fines over \$10.00 or more than 4 books overdue.

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.

- Wireless access is available only during open hours.
- Use of workstation has a 30 minute time limit. If no one is waiting this time may be extended.
- Persons who use the computer assume responsibility for the software during their use. Software and personal belongings should not be left unattended. The Elkhart Lake Public Library will not be responsible for injuries or damage to the possession of individuals or groups resulting from the use of the computer.
- Printing charges apply.
- Limited staff assistance is available.
- Use of chat rooms is prohibited.

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 others, library users, or staff;
- Accessing or displaying graphics or other material that is sexually explicit;
- Disregarding the privacy of others by 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

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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 e-mail 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, and/or leave the building as appropriate. Misuse or abuse of the computers or Internet access will result in suspension of access privileges. Illegal uses of computers may also subject to prosecution by local, state or federal authorities.

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.

Dear Parent or Legal Guardian:

The Elkhart Lake Public Library offers connections to the information contained on the World Wide Web through our computer Internet hook-ups. As a parent or legal guardian, you need to know that under Wisconsin law, the Library cannot deny access to any of the materials and information available and accessible through the Library, some of which may contain subject matter which as a parent or guardian may deem unsuitable for a minor. Because of Wisconsin law, the obligation to supervise, monitor, or control the minor's access to and use of any and all materials and information is the sole responsibility of the parent or legal guardian.

If your minor will be using the library computers and accessing information through the Internet, we recommend that you discuss with the minor what you deem appropriate use of this resource, which can be of tremendous value, or as any other tool when used improperly, potentially harmful.

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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. The Elkhart Lake Public Library supports the right for each family to decide what the appropriate Internet use is for their children. The responsibility for what minors read or view on the Internet rests with parents or guardians.

For more information on children and the Internet see Child Safety on the Information Highway, <http://www.safekids.com/child-safety-on-the-information-highway/> and Teen Safety on the Information Highway, <http://www.safekids.com/teen-safety-on-info-highway/> jointly produced by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children and Interactive Service Organization.

The following are recommended guidelines for parents and guardians to ensure that children have positive online experiences, whether at home or in the library.

- Use the Internet as a family. Join your children in Internet exploration.
- Explore the wide range of available information and tell your children about sites you consider inappropriate for them.
- Encourage children to use sites recommended on the Library’s website and counsel them to avoid sites you consider unsuitable.
- Provide guidelines for your children on the amount of time they spend online, just as for television viewing.
- Instruct children NEVER to give out personal information online (name, address, password, telephone number, credit card number).
- Provide children with guidelines on acceptable use of electronic resources, including e-mail and chatrooms.
- Teach children to be good online consumers. As with print information, consider the source, date and accuracy of online information.

Adopted, Elkhart Lake Library Board
August 9, 2010