

BOARD POLICIES

INTERNET ACCESS

Category: Operational

Approved: June 26, 1996

Revised: August 28, 2008; October 27, 2010

Introduction

Rocky River Public Library – an informational, educational, recreational, and cultural resource – is committed to preserving its unique atmosphere and personal service, adapting quickly and efficiently to anticipate and meet community needs, and to promoting freedom of information to all. In this role, the library strives to enhance the information it delivers by providing a gateway to information resources from electronic networks around the world.

Range of Access

Use of the Library's bandwidth, including via personal laptops and other electronic devices, for the transmission, dissemination, and/or duplication of information is regulated by Ohio and federal laws. The Library expects all users to familiarize themselves with and to comply with such laws. For example, it is illegal to access, view, print, distribute, display, send or receive images, graphics or material that violate federal or state laws, including those materials relating to child pornography. Patrons may not display, in the presence of a minor, sexually explicit materials deemed harmful to minors under Ohio law.

Patron responsibilities

As an information resource, the Internet offers a wealth of educational, recreational, and cultural information that increases the resources available to the patrons of the library far beyond its own collection. It allows access to ideas, information, and commentary from around the globe and a vast array of tools and resources for different age levels and points of view. Staff can assist patrons in finding quality websites for their information needs. The Internet is not regulated and materials accessible through it may be inaccurate, incomplete, outdated, inappropriate, offensive, or biased. The library does not endorse any viewpoints or vouch for the accuracy of information obtained through the Internet.

Privacy and/or confidentiality while using the Internet on computers, including personal laptops and other electronic devices, throughout the library is not available. The possibility exists of inadvertent viewing of information and images by others. Therefore, the library does not recommend that patrons use its computers, including personal laptops and other electronic devices, for activities that require them to enter personal information such as credit card numbers, Social Security numbers, or bank

account numbers. Patrons do so at their own risk. In addition, patrons are asked to respect the sensibilities of others when displaying images on computers, including personal laptops and other electronic devices, which may reasonably be expected to be offensive to someone else.

The Library assumes no responsibility for any damages, direct or indirect, arising from the use of the Library's public access computers. Library computers are provided for your educational and individual needs. You may not use the Library's equipment or wireless network to operate a business.

It is the policy of Rocky River Public Library that full responsibility for materials and resources accessed by children rests with their parents or legal guardians. For children up to age 12, the Children's Room offers many computers with age-appropriate information and activities. Parents and guardians may wish to refer to Child Safety on the Information Highway, a pamphlet produced by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. The pamphlet is available in the Children's Room. Parents and guardians also are encouraged to visit websites to learn more about protecting their children from risks associated with Internet access, including: www.fbi.gov/publications/pguide/pguide.htm

Violations of Policy

Disturbances related to noncompliance will not be tolerated. Users violating this policy will first be asked to comply. Violators who persist will be told to leave the library. The library reserves the right to prohibit future access to the library for users who repeatedly violate the policy after previous warnings.

The Rocky River Public Library cooperates with local, state and federal authorities in the enforcement of all laws, statutes and ordinances. Illegal acts are subject to prosecution by local, state or federal authorities.

Use of the computers, including personal laptops and other electronic devices, and electronic resources of Rocky River Public Library shall be evidence of the user's acknowledgement and acceptance of these rules and agreement to be bound by them.