VINTON PUBLIC LIBRARY INTERNET USE POLICY

Date Effective: 5/19

Revision Dates: 9/22

Date(s) Reviewed by Library Board: 9/20, 11/22

Policy Maintenance Performed By: Library Director

In accordance with Public Library Standard: 1.7

1. PHILOSOPHY:
   1. The goal of the Vinton Public Library is to provide the community it serves with free and open access to all its collections without prejudice or judgement, thereby encouraging personal, professional, and educational growth.
   2. Public access to computers and the Internet is in full alignment with the Library’s mission. Computer and Internet access is available to all patrons of the Vinton Public Library
2. REGULATIONS:
   1. DISCLAIMER: The Internet offers unlimited global access to information. However, not all sources on the Internet provide information that is accurate, complete, current, or legal. The library is unable to monitor or control the content of the materials on the Internet, which changes rapidly and unpredictably. The library, its trustees and employees shall not be liable for any damages (direct or inconsequential) from any information obtained or provided on the Internet. The Vinton Public Library does not limit patron access to specific content on the Internet. Parents or guardians are responsible for the Internet information selected and/or accessed by their children. The library affirms the right and responsibility of a parent or guardian to determine and monitor their child’s – and only their child’s – access to Internet resources accessible through the library.
   2. The Vinton Public Library has public access internet computers both on the main floor and in the Children’s Department. Computers are available on a first come, first served basis. Time on the computers is limited to 30 minutes but may be extended if no one is waiting. School-age children may use any computer in the library, but only school-age children may use the computers located in the Children’s Department, unless permission is granted by the Children’s Librarian.
   3. Patrons who wish to use e-mail must maintain their own account. All messages must be sent and received through the patron’s personal email. It is the patron’s responsibility to sign out of any email accounts when done using the computers.
   4. Patrons are responsible for clearing their own internet search histories, including payment methods and/or personally identifiable information
   5. No downloads to the computer are allowed. Patrons must use their own storage device.
   6. Internet users are expected to be knowledgeable in basic computer operations. If time permits, a staff member may assist users.
   7. WIFI Internet Access
      1. The Vinton Public Library provides free public access to the Internet to enable Library patrons to use their own Internet enabled devices to access the Internet while at the Library. Users of the Library’s Wi-Fi network are subject to all provisions of this policy. Users will agree to abide by the Library’s policy upon signing onto our network.
   8. The user of the Internet in the library must be for legal and ethical purposes, and in alignment with other library policies. Examples of unacceptable purposes include, but are not limited to, the following:
      1. Violation of computer system security and/or system configuration
      2. Violation of another user’s right to privacy
      3. Use of sounds and/or pictures that can be reasonably expected to disturb others; Receiving or displaying text or graphics that may be construed as indecent or obscene by library staff and/or patrons, playing music or other sound that is audible to others
      4. Use that compromises the safety and security of minors when using e-mail, chat rooms and other forms of direct electronic communications
   9. Violations of the Internet policy will result in loss of computer privileges as follows
      1. First violation: Loss of privileges for one week
      2. Second violation: Loss of privileges for one month
      3. Third violation: Permanent loss of library privileges
   10. Illegal acts involving library computers may also be subject to prosecution by local, state, or federal authorities