

BELLE FOURCHE PUBLIC LIBRARY INTERNET USAGE & SAFETY POLICY

The mission of the Belle Fourche Public Library is to serve the community by making available print materials, audio and video materials and to satisfy information needs, provide recreational activities and promote an unrestricted flow of ideas.

The library's computer system provides the opportunity to integrate electronic resources from information networks around the world with the library's other resources. The internet, as an informational resource, enables the library to provide information beyond the confines of its own collection. Currently, however, it is an unregulated medium. As such, while it offers access to a wealth of material that is personally, professionally, and culturally enriching to individuals of all ages, it also enables access to some material that may be offensive, disturbing and/or illegal.

The library upholds and affirms the right of each individual to have access to constitutionally protected material. The library also affirms the right and responsibility of parents to determine and monitor their children's use of library materials and resources.

Access is a privilege, not a right.

CONDITIONS AND TERMS OF USE IN THE LIBRARY

To encourage use and establish guidelines, the following regulations will apply to internet computers:

- Designated internet stations are located where they can be monitored by staff for assistance and security.
- All users are expected to use the resources in a responsible, ethical manner which includes but is not limited to the following:
 - Using resources for educational, informational and recreational purposes only; not for unauthorized, illegal or unethical purposes.
 - Not sending, receiving or displaying text or graphics which may reasonably be construed as obscene.
- Youth under 18 years of age are required to have parental or guardian permission to access the internet. An Internet User Contract is available at the front desk if you are under 18 years of age.
- The Belle Fourche Public Library assumes no responsibility for the use of the internet by children. It is not possible for the library staff to control specific information children and youth may locate on the internet. It is the responsibility of the user (or parent, guardian or caregiver) to determine what is appropriate.

- To the extent practical, technology protection measures (or "Internet filters") shall be used to block or filter Internet, or other forms of electronic communications, access to inappropriate information.
 - Specifically, as required by the Children's Internet Protection Act, blocking shall be applied to visual depictions of material deemed obscene or child pornography, or to any material deemed harmful to minors.
 - Subject to staff supervision, technology protection measures may be disabled for adults or, in the case of minors, minimized only for bona fide research or other lawful purposes.
- Misuse or abuse of these computers or internet access will result in suspension of internet access privileges. Any internet user who has a fine of \$5 or more or has library materials that have not been returned will not be allowed to use the internet.
- There will no copying to disk of any copyright-protected program file or other material. Users may not save their data on the hard drives of library computers. Any printing will be charged at the rate of 10¢ per black and white page and 50¢ per colored page.
- Internet stations will be available on a first come, first served appointment basis. Use will be limited to 1/2 hour per patron, unless there are not people waiting to get on.
- Respecting the privacy of others by not misrepresenting oneself as another user, by not attempting to modify or gain access to files, passwords, or data belonging to others; by not seeking unauthorized access to any computer system or damaging or altering software components of any network or database.
- Make only authorized copies of copyrighted or licensed software or data.
- Only library-provided software may be used on library's computers.
- Library staff is available to assist in the use of these resources but may not be familiar with every application patrons might want to use. Due to scheduling constraints, there may not be an internet trained librarian on duty at all times. Because of the many different internet applications available, we cannot provide complete technical support.

This Internet Usage and Safety Policy was adopted by The Belle Fourche Public Library Board of Trustees at a public meeting, following normal public notice, on August 6, 2024 (month, day, year).