### **INTERNET USE POLICY 12/17/2019**

# MEEHAN MEMORIAL LANSING PUBLIC LIBRARY INTERNET USE POLICY (12/17/2019)

#### Philosophy

Meehan Memorial Lansing Public Library provides access to the internet as part of its mission: "The Meehan Memorial Lansing Public Library: We connect you to the world of ideas." The purpose of providing public internet access is to expose the public to the world of information on the internet and to provide equal access to that information for everyone in the community.

### The Internet

The Internet is an unregulated medium that allows access to a wealth of materials that can be personally, professionally and culturally enriching to individuals of all ages. However, it also enables access to material that might be offensive, disturbing, illegal, inaccurate, or incomplete.

The Library does not endorse the viewpoints or vouch for the accuracy of information obtained through the Internet. The Library's policies governing the purchase of materials are not applicable to materials accessed electronically. Library customers use the Internet and electronic databases at their own risk. The Library assumes no responsibility, and will have no liability for, any direct, indirect, or consequential damages arising from the use of its database server or from the use of its electronic resources or those obtained via the Internet

# Regulations

The library supports the right to privacy and confidentiality of its patrons and maintains no records of what the patron views.

The library provides free, wireless internet access for public use. Personal use of the library's public wireless access will conform to policies regulating other types of public internet access provided by the library. Patrons are responsible for having the proper hardware, software and network settings on their own wireless device to connect to the library-provided Wi-Fi.

Access, use, or dissemination of information via the internet in the library is the responsibility of the patron. It is illegal to use the library's computers to access, view, print, distribute, display, send, or receive images or graphics of material that violates state or Federal laws, including those relating to child pornography.

The internet is not secure or private. Privacy in using the internet in the library cannot be guaranteed. There exists a possibility of inadvertent viewing by others. Customers handling financial transactions or other activities that require confidentiality do so at their own risk.

As with other library materials, the library affirms responsibility of parents or guardians to guide their children's use of the internet.

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Computers are available for any user who visits the library. Access is on a first-come, firstserved basis. Appointments are not accepted, but users are welcome to call ahead to check availability. Computers are available for use during the library's normal business hours. Use must be completed 5 minutes prior to the library's closing. The internet may be unavailable due to unforeseen problems with hardware, software or telecommunications.

Users are expected to have a basic knowledge of computer use and the internet. Staff cannot provide in-depth training for users, but will provide information on how to connect to the internet, search online and print from library computers. Library staff will answer basic questions about internet use or help locate resources.

Acceptable uses of library computers to access the internet include but are not limited to conducting research, searching the library's online catalogue, using personal email and social media accounts, online educational classes and children's video games.

While respecting individual users' right to privacy, library staff reserves the right to monitor use of internet workstations to ensure compliance with this policy. Staff may ask users to remove themselves from library equipment if observed behavior is in conflict with this policy.

Library patrons may not download software or programs from the internet onto library computers without consultation with and permission from library staff. Patrons are prohibited from making any attempt to gain unauthorized access to restricted files or networks, or to damage or modify library owned computer equipment or software; and patrons will refrain from downloading or saving items to library owned computers. Staff use of computers for research and maintenance may, at times, supersede users' access.

Meehan Memorial Lansing Public Library expressly disclaims any liability or responsibility arising from access to or use of information obtained through the internet, or any consequences thereof.

The Meehan Memorial Lansing Public Library Director and the Board of Trustees welcomes feedback from patrons. Any patron concern shall be hand written and presented to the President of the Board of Trustees.

### **INTERNET USE POLICY REVIEWS:**

The Meehan Memorial Lansing Public Library Director, Staff, and Board of Trustees will regularly review this policy. Public notice will be made of any policy changes and patrons will be expected to abide by the terms of any updated policy.

Adopted by the Board of Trustees Reviewed: 12/17/19 by Library Board of Directors:

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