

## Bent Northrop Memorial Library Internet and Computer Policy



The Bent Northrop Memorial Library (BNML) supports the American Library Association Bill of Rights and supports the right of all persons, regardless of age, to have equal access to all materials and services provided by the Library.

BNML provides a variety of resources for information and recreational purposes. Among these resources is the Internet, an unregulated medium, which contains a wide variety of sources including educational sites, high quality information sites, recreational sites, and sites that contain information that may be inaccurate, unreliable, illegal, or contain content considered to be disturbing or offensive.

Librarians are unable to apply the same selection criteria to the Internet as with other library materials, and therefore **the Library is not responsible for the content of the Internet.** The Library does not employ Internet filters or otherwise block use of, or access to, the content of the Internet. The Library does not monitor or track patron use of the Internet, either on Library computers or on their own devices.

The Library supports the right and responsibility of parents/guardians to monitor their children's use of this resource. Parents are encouraged to accompany their children and guide their Internet exploration.

The Library seeks to protect the first amendment rights of its patrons and their individual right to privacy. However, Internet users must be sensitive to the fact that computer workstations are located in public areas and may be seen by others. Computers are able to store temporary and permanent data. Users should be aware that it is not always possible to maintain privacy on public computers. The Library is not liable for compromised personal information.

It is the individual's responsibility to respect copyright laws and licensing agreements. Illegal activities, online harassment, child pornography, obscene materials, and materials "harmful to minors" as defined by applicable state or federal law, are prohibited.

### **Computer Use:**

- BNML provides access to the Internet both on library computers and by a publicly accessible wireless network that patrons may connect to with their personal devices.
- Library computers are available on a first come, first served basis unless they are needed for special purposes. When there are not enough devices for all patrons who desire to use them, reasonable time limits may be established.
- Patrons may not modify or harm library computers, computer systems, computer furniture, or computer networks in any way, including changing system configuration,

modifying privacy settings, or installing software.

- Library staff may assist individuals with technology questions, but are not regularly available for individual or in-depth training.
- Patrons are expected to use headphones when sound is used on any device.
- Adults may check out laptops at the circulation desk. Youth under 18 may check them out for in-library use only.

### **Violation of Policies**

Patrons who violate this policy may be barred by library staff from using computers and/or the computer network. Any patron who willfully violates this policy with damage to library computers or the network resulting will be responsible for costs incurred. Illegal activities may be subject to prosecution by local, state, or federal authorities.

Adopted August 2008

Revised February 2016

Reviewed and Approved July 2018

Revised and Approved May 2024

BNML Trustees