

INTERNET

PURPOSE

A goal of the Yakima Valley Regional Library is to select from the mass of available materials, and organize for easy access, those books and materials which best meet the needs of the community, foster the communication of ideas, provide opportunity and encouragement for all to educate themselves continuously, and help people equip themselves for useful occupations and practical affairs, sharpen their competence to form sound judgments, increase their appreciation of their cultural heritage, and enrich their leisure hours.

Information technologies are improving ways in which public libraries can better serve customers and have opened access to local and global electronic services not previously available. It is a goal that any resident living within the Yakima Valley Regional Library service area should be able to walk into any community library and use a computer to access information resources available through the Internet.

It is a goal that electronic information resources will be available throughout the Yakima Valley Regional Library System. The Regional Library System will make the Internet available for library customers in its community libraries.

The compelling interest of this policy is to address concerns about:

Children seeing obscene materials;

Parental rights and responsibilities;

Hostile environments in community libraries;

Access of the entire public to the Internet;

Consistency with the Regional Library's mission; and

Adherence to provisions of the U.S. Constitution.

POLICIES

The Internet is a global electronic network. The Internet may contain inaccurate, outdated, incomplete, or controversial information. All use of computer resources is at the risk of the user.

Library customers access the Internet at their own discretion. As with other library materials, parents and legal guardians of children are responsible for monitoring and restricting their children's use of this resource. Parents are encouraged to use information contained in "Child Safety on the Information Highway" and "The Internet: A Parent's Guide."

The Regional Library System does not institute electronic mail (E-Mail) accounts or news and discussion groups or chat rooms for library customers.

Library customers' use of the facilities and equipment for access to the Internet may be limited in time so that all library customers will have an opportunity to use the resource.

Computer resources **may not** be used for the following purposes:

Violation of any applicable federal, state, or local laws, rules or regulations;

Harassment of other persons or parties;

Libel or slander of other persons or parties;

Destruction or damage to equipment, software, or data belonging to the Regional Library System or to other users;

Gaining or attempt to gain unauthorized access to any computing, information, or communications devices or resources;

Disruption or unauthorized monitoring of electronic communications;

Unauthorized copying of copyrighted or other protected material;

Violation of computer system security;

Unauthorized use of computer accounts, access codes, or network identification numbers assigned to others;

Use of computer communications facilities in ways that unnecessarily impede the computing activities of others (such as randomly initiated interactive electronic communications or e-mail exchanges, overuse of interactive network facilities, etc.);

Violation of software license agreements;

Violation of network usage policies and agreements;

Violation of another person's or party's privacy;

Intentional propagation of computer viruses;

Knowingly viewing, printing, downloading or exhibiting of obscene materials in violation of city, state or federal laws;

Violations of the Regional Library System's rules of conduct as they may be determined from time to time by the Regional Library Board.

U.S. Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S. Code) prohibits the unauthorized reproduction or distribution of copyrighted materials, except as permitted by the principles of "fair use." Library customers may not copy or distribute electronic materials (including electronic mail, text, images, programs, or data) without the explicit permission of the copyright holder. Any responsibility for any consequences of copyright infringement lies with the library customer. The Regional Library System expressly disclaims any liability or responsibility resulting from such use.

The Regional Library System assumes no liability for any loss or damage to users' data or disks, nor for any personal damage or injury incurred as a result of using the Regional Library System's computing resources, including the Internet. This includes damage or injury sustained from invasions of a library customer's or other person's privacy.

Library customers will be personally responsible for the costs of any materials ordered via the Internet. The Regional Library System will not be responsible for these costs.

The Regional Library System reserves the right to direct anyone to leave the library. The Regional Library System may withdraw permission for a person to re-enter any of its facilities.

Internet access with and without software-blocking software (filters) will be available at all community libraries. All customers using the Internet must sign an Internet Use Agreement.

An adult must sign a Yakima Valley Regional Library *Adult Internet Use Agreement* indicating they have read this Internet Policy and agree to abide by it and any future version of the Policy as a condition of using the Regional Library's Internet access.

A minor's parent or legal guardian must sign a Yakima Valley Regional Library *Minor Internet Use Agreement* indicating they have read this Internet Policy and agree that the minor may use the Regional Library's Internet access and that the minor will abide by the Internet Policy and future version of the Policy as a condition of the minor using the Regional Library's Internet access, and elect filtered or unfiltered access for the minor. A minor will not be allowed to use the Internet without this completed form.

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