Sargent Township Library Computer and Internet Use Policy

Because of the freedom and breadth of information on the Internet, its unstructured and unregulated nature, and the unreliable state of filtering, the Sargent Township Library cannot fully control the content of resources available on the Internet. The availability of information does not constitute endorsement of the content by the Sargent Township Library.

Since our computers are accessible to children, we have equipped them with pornography filtering devices. These are not 100% foolproof, but are the best we can do. The public library does not serve in place of parents and cannot provide constant care and supervision of children as they explore the Internet. The responsibility for what minors read or view on the Internet, even at the library, rests with parents or guardians.

Guidelines:

Computers will not be used for illegal activity, to access illegal materials, or to access materials which by community standards would be obscene.

Research and study have priority over entertainment.

Library staff may limit use of computer equipment, terminating any user's access session or prohibiting a user from subsequent access sessions.

Installation, downloading, or modification of software is prohibited.

Users will respect copyright laws and licensing agreements.

Users will not make any attempt at hacking or trying to gain unauthorized access to restricted files or networks. No one may damage or modify computer equipment or software.

Filters may be disabled for adults for bona fide research or other lawful purposes.

To address the issue of safety and security of minors, as well as the unauthorized disclosure, use and dissemination of personal identification information when using electronic mail, chat rooms and other forms of direct electronic communications, the Library provides a Safe Surfing Guide, and also urges minors and caregivers of minors to keep in mind the following safety guidelines:

- Never give out identifying information such as home address, school name, or telephone number. When you post messages on line use a nickname
- Let parents or guardians decide whether personal information such as age, marital status, or financial information should be revealed.
- Never arrange a face-to-face meeting with someone via the computer without a parents' or guardians' approval.
- Never respond to messages that are suggestive, obscene, threatening, or make one uncomfortable.
- Remember that people online may not be who they say they are.
- Remember that everything one reads may not be true.

Parents can notify the library if they do not want their children to use the library's computers.

Approved 10/19/2011
Reapproved 10/16/2018