COMPUTER & INTERNET POLICY

Purpose:
The Board of Trustees has established this policy to ensure that full and equal access is available to computer resources for the educational, informational, and recreational needs of all our patrons.

General Computer Guidelines:
In order to provide Internet and computer access to as many library patrons as possible, the library places a 1-hour time limit per person on computers located at the public hubs. If the computers are not busy, one additional hour may be added at the discretion of the staff. If in that time period, requests for computer time are greater than the number of computers available the people who have been on the computers the longest will be asked to leave.

There is a 3-hour time limit on the study room computers.
There is a limit of two people at a computer at any one time**.**

Patrons must have a current library card or a photographic identification in order to access the public computers. Guests may receive a guest pass with photographic identification. If a patron has library fees of $3.00 or more, he/she may not use the computers until fees are completely paid. Black and white copies are ten cents a page, and color copies are twenty-five cents.

Audio materials may be accessed as long as the patron is using headphones to contain the sound, and the volume is low enough to be inaudible to close bystanders. Patrons must provide their own headphones.

It is also the responsibility of the patron to evaluate the quality of the Internet information accessed. The library cannot accept responsibility for the accuracy of its content. If the patron feels information obtained through the Internet is inaccurate or offensive, we suggest that the patron contact the original producer or distributor of this information. The availability of the information does not construe endorsement of the content by the Mount Pleasant Public Library. The Internet is not a secure, private environment. Customers handling financial transactions or other activities that require confidentiality do so at their own risk. The Library cannot be held responsible for the content found on the Internet.

Wireless
The library provides free, unsecured, wireless Internet access for public use. The library does not provide technical support for privately-owned personal wireless devices; however, library staff may provide guidance for the use of such devices when directly involved with library-owned materials, such as EBSCO databases and Bridges resources. Security for personal wireless devices rests solely with the owner of the wireless device. Personal use of the library's public wireless access will conform to policies regulating other types of public Internet access provided by the library.

Children's Internet Protection Act

In accordance with the Children's Internet Protection Act, a network filter is in place to prevent the viewing of obscene visual material.

Children under the age of 18 must have a parental slip signed before a library staff member by the parent or guardian on file at the library and a library card before they can access the Internet. Therefore, when a parent or guardian signs an Internet permission form, they are giving their child unlimited access to all aspects of the Internet.

Although a filter is provided on the library network in compliance with CIPA, the library staff cannot monitor a child's Internet usage.

The library expects the use of all its electronic sources such as the Internet to be responsible, ethical, and legal, and consistent with the purpose for which those resources are provided. The library complies with the Children's Internet Protection Act (Pub. L. No. 106-554 and 47 USC 254(h)). To this end:

The library affirms the right of every individual to have access to constitutionally protected material as stated in the library's collection development policy. Parents or guardians, not the library or its staff, are responsible for the Internet use by their children. Internet access is provided in a public area shared by users of all ages, backgrounds, and sensibilities. Users should consider this when accessing potentially controversial information and images. The library reserves the right to ask users to discontinue the display of information and images which cause a disruption. Users should respect the privacy of other Internet users by not observing what sites others are accessing.

Users will not misrepresent themselves as any other user; will not attempt to modify or gain access to files, passwords, or data belonging to others; will not seek unauthorized access to any computer system; and will not damage or alter software components of any network or database. g. Illegal activities subject to prosecution include: (1) Destruction of or damage to equipment, software, or data belonging to the library; (2) Violation of computer system security or system configuration; (3) Violation of the copyright laws of the United States; (4) Downloading or provision of child pornography or display of pornography where it may be seen by children.

To the extent practical, steps shall be taken to promote the safety and security of users of the Internet when they are using electronic mail, chat rooms, instant messaging and other forms of direct electronic communications. i. Safety and security of minors. (1) Prevention of inappropriate network usage. 1. Technology measures shall be used to prevent unauthorized access and other unlawful activities. 2. Technology measures shall be used to prevent unauthorized disclosure, use, and dissemination of personal identification information. (2) Prevention of access to inappropriate material. 1. Technology protection measures, i.e., Internet filters, shall be used to block or filter access to inappropriate material on the Internet. 2. Blocking shall be applied to visual depictions of material deemed obscene, to child pornography, or to any material deemed harmful to minors. 3. Technology protection measures may be disabled by library staff for adults or, in the case of minors, minimized for bona fide research or other lawful purposes.

Violation of this computer use policy shall result in the loss of computer privileges and may lead to financial responsibility. Illegal activities will be prosecuted.

Computer Conduct:
The library reserves the right to refuse computer access privileges to any patron and guest patron who do not observe the following policies and guidelines.

- Does not follow library rules or procedures for computer usage.
- Damaging or destroying equipment, software or data belonging to the library or to other users, including adding, altering, or deleting files or configurations on Library Internet workstation hard drives or other library computer equipment, violating network integrity, or using patron-supplied software on library equipment.
- Abusing computer time limits.
- Using the Internet for any illegal activity or for improper activities such as accessing pornography, harassment, distribution of unsolicited advertising, propagation of computer viruses, attempting to make unauthorized entry into other computers, or violating copyright laws.
- Disrupting the use of workstations by other patrons or breaching the privacy of other computer users.
- Downloading or saving information to the computer's hard drive.
- Committing fraudulent acts.

Patrons violating these terms will lose computer privileges.

Approved by the Library Board
January 13, 2026