

# CARROLL PUBLIC LIBRARY

## INTERNET AND COMPUTER USE POLICY



**Purpose:** The Carroll Public Library Board of Trustees establishes this policy to ensure appropriate use of Internet resources and computers within the library. The library provides free public access to the Internet as an informational, educational and recreational resource.

### RESPONSIBILITY OF THE LIBRARY

The library has no means or statutory authority to ensure that only constitutionally protected material is accessed by the public. The authority to determine what is obscene rests with the Carroll County attorney (Sec. 728.6, Code of Iowa), not with the staff of the Carroll Public Library. Public libraries are exempt from the Obscenity Code under Sec. 728.7, Code of Iowa.

The availability of information does not constitute endorsement of the content by the Carroll Public Library. Carroll Public Library expressly disclaims any liability or responsibility arising from access to or use of information obtained through the Internet, or any consequences thereof.

### RESPONSIBILITY OF CUSTOMERS

Privacy in using the Internet in the library cannot be guaranteed. There exists a possibility of inadvertent viewing by others. Customers are urged to respect the sensibilities of others when accessing information that may reasonably be offensive to someone else. (See also Carroll Public Library Confidentiality and Library Records Policy.)

The Library Board of Trustees and staff expect all use of electronic information resources such as the Internet to be responsible and consistent with the purpose for which these resources are provided. This includes:

- Using resources for educational, informational, and recreational purposes only: not for unauthorized, illegal, or unethical purposes.
- Respecting the privacy of others by not misrepresenting oneself as another user, by not attempting to modify or gain access to any computer system or damaging or altering software components of any network or database.
- Further respecting the privacy of others using public access stations at Carroll Public Library by not interfering with their use.
- Making only authorized copies of copyrighted or licensed software data.
- Not making unauthorized changes to the setup or configuration of the software or hardware.
- Not sending, receiving, or displaying text or graphics containing child pornography (Sec. 728.2, Code of Iowa).

The Carroll Public Library assumes no responsibility or liability for the use of the Internet by anyone. All responsibility for a child under the age of 18 using the Internet rests with the parent, guardian, or caregiver to determine what is appropriate for their child only. The library does not act in place or in absence of the parent and is not responsible for enforcing any restrictions which a parent or guardian may place on a minor's use of the Internet. In addition, the library accepts no responsibility for information on screens that may be inadvertently viewed by others.

Just as the library has no control over the use of print material by the public and because the library does not endorse any particular point of view with regard to print or audio/video materials, so too does the library not endorse material found on the Internet. Selection policies, which serve to govern a library's purchased materials, do not apply to material accessed electronically.

Staff may ask users to remove themselves from library equipment if they observe any behavior which they judge to be in conflict with this policy. Misuse of library computers or Internet access may result in suspension of Internet access.

Patrons and staff are advised not to insert any USBs or flash drives into library computers unless they know what is on that flash drive and where it came from.

Adopted 10/18/04. Reviewed 1/17/22.

Revised 7/17/07; 11/21/11; 11/17/14; 11/20/17; 11/18/24.