

Nampa Public Library  
**INTERNET POLICY**

Approved by the Nampa Public Library Board of Trustees, September 9, 1996  
Revised at the October 1997, March 2000 and November 2007 meetings of the Board of Trustees.

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In response to advances in technology and the changing needs of the community, the Nampa Public Library (NPL) endeavors to develop collections, resources, and services that meet the cultural, informational, recreational, and educational needs of Nampa's diverse, multicultural community. This includes public Internet access.

**Disclaimer:**

The Nampa Public Library does not monitor and has no control over the information accessed through the Internet and cannot be held responsible for its content. As with other library materials, restriction of a child's access to the Internet is the responsibility of the parent/legal guardian.

The Nampa Public Library assumes no responsibility for any damages, direct or indirect, arising from use of its World Wide Web server or from its connection to other Internet services.

**Internet Safety:**

Since the Internet is a global electronic network, there is not any state/country control of its users or content. The Internet and its available resources may contain material of a controversial nature. The Nampa Public Library cannot censor access to material nor protect users from offensive information. Parents of minor children must assume responsibility for their children's use of the Internet through the Library's connection. Pamphlets for parents on child and teen internet safety are provided, when available, at the Information Desk and upstairs near the public computers. Safety information guides are provided to staff during training and may be printed off for concerned customers.

Library staff cannot control the availability of information links which often change rapidly and unpredictably. Not all sources on the Internet provide accurate, complete or current information. Users need to be good information consumers, questioning the validity of the information.

Internet filtering options are available for library patrons.

**Nampa Public Library Philosophy**

**Equal Access**

NPL grants access to computer workstations equally to persons of all ages. Use by adults does not take precedence over use by children and youth.

**Type of use**

NPL does not place a higher value on one allowed use of Internet over another. Patrons may use their time for shopping, playing games, e-mail, chat, research or surfing. Uses that are not allowed are covered in the Conditions and Terms of Use (below), which each user agrees when they log on to the Internet.

## Privacy & Confidentiality

NPL respects the privacy of patrons. Staff should not monitor what patrons are doing on the Internet, unless the Policy is being violated.

Libraries are a major information source in our society for access to the larger world of human expression. For some, they are the only available access point. Libraries connect individuals with the ideas, information, and images they seek. Libraries that raise barriers to access damage their credibility with their users.

By providing information across the spectrum of human interests, and making it available and accessible to anyone who wants it, libraries allow individuals to exercise their First Amendment right to seek and receive all types of expression, from all points of view. Materials in any given library cover the spectrum of human experience and thought, even those that some people may consider false, offensive, or dangerous.

In the millions of Web sites available on the Internet, there are some—often loosely called “pornography”—that parents, or adults generally, do not want anyone to see. A very small fraction of these sexually explicit sites are actual obscenity or child pornography, which are not constitutionally protected. The rest, like the overwhelming majority of materials on the Internet, is protected by the First Amendment.

Obscenity and child pornography are illegal. Federal and state statutes, the latter varying slightly depending on the jurisdiction, prohibit such materials. The U.S. Supreme Court has settled most questions about what obscenity and child pornography statutes are constitutionally sound.

## Conditions And Terms Of Use Of The Internet

1. Space is limited at our Internet workstations. We ask that no more than 2 people gather at the workstation at one time.
2. Failure to use the Internet station appropriately and responsibly may result in revocation of Internet use privileges.

Users may not:

- a) Obstruct other people’s work by consuming large amounts of system resources or by deliberately crashing any Library computer system.
- b) Make any attempt to damage computer equipment or software.
- c) Make any attempt to alter software configurations or install any software.
- d) Violate copyright laws or software licensing agreements.
- e) Violate Federal, State, local laws or regulations, or library rule or regulation.

The Internet is a valuable research tool and in demand. Information on sign up procedures and limits are available at the Information Desk or the Checkout Desk. Patron privileges may be revoked if they do not comply with the rules.

Depending on the capabilities of the access management program used by the library, every attempt will be made to display the *Conditions and terms of use of the Internet* on the screen of each Internet workstation and will require acceptance by the user prior to using the workstation.

The library staff member assigned to the Information Desk has the full authority of the Library Board of Trustees to require that anyone viewing material unsuitable for a public library setting shut down the screen immediately. The patron will be instructed that if a staff member has reason to believe that a person has intentionally accessed inappropriate material the person will be banned from using the workstations. Unsuitable material will include, but not be limited to, any material, on an Internet site, that is obscene and/or sexually explicit. "Obscene" is defined in Idaho Code Section 18-4101(A).

### **Wireless Internet Access for Library Users**

Free wireless Internet access is provided to the public at Nampa Public Library. Utilizing this "Hot Spot," the public may connect to the Internet with a wireless laptop, PDA or other portable device from within the Library. The wireless connection is provided as-is. Library staff cannot offer technical support for establishing or maintaining a connection and the Library is not responsible for hardware or software damage, or for loss or theft of unattended equipment. The wireless connection is not secure. Since the radio signals can potentially be intercepted, activity requiring transmission of credit card numbers, passwords, and other personal information should be avoided. The wireless network is open and simultaneously connected computers are visible to each other, and therefore vulnerable to other users' viruses, malware, and hacks. Users are responsible for maintaining up-to-date antivirus software and firewalls. Printing from the wireless network will not be supported. The wireless Internet access is unfiltered, but all Library policies concerning legal and acceptable use of computers and the Internet apply.