

INTERNET ACCESS POLICY MESQUITE PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM

Mission Statement

The mission of the Mesquite Public Library System is to enrich the lives of residents by providing access to a variety of intellectual, educational, informational, recreational and cultural resources.

Purpose of Internet Access

The Mesquite Public Library System acknowledges the vast amount of information currently available to the public. Providing public Internet access will greatly enhance the information already provided by this system's collections. The Internet offers an unrestricted, global source of information. Government documents, newspapers and other periodicals, business information, science and medical information, history, art and cultural issues are just some of what is available through this graphical electronic medium.

Nature of Internet Information

Because the Internet is an unregulated information source, users should be aware that not all materials retrieved through this source are suitable for all audiences. Nor is there any guarantee information accessed through this medium is useful or truthful. The Mesquite Public Library System disclaims any liability or responsibility which might arise from the access to or use of information obtained through the Internet or any consequences thereof. The user must bear the burden of determining the value and acceptability of the information accessed.

Home Page Access

The library system will provide the user with useful Internet links through its home page. Patrons with Internet access at home can reach the library system home page at:

<http://www.library.mesquite.tx.us>

In-Library Use

- Internet work stations will be housed in the adult services sections of the libraries where they can be monitored by library personnel.
- Monitoring is intended to insure that use of this resource is consistent with guidelines of this policy.
- Filtering software has been installed to block access to some sites that violate the guidelines of this policy. Any legitimate site blocked by the filtering software may be accessed at staff discretion.
- Many factors affect access to specific sites on the Internet, therefore the library system cannot guarantee their availability.
- The library staff will offer such assistance as is reasonable. It is assumed that users of the Internet will have some proficiency in the use of computers.
- Users should notify Library staff immediately if they encounter any problems with the computer or programs.
- The library system will offer periodic classes in the use of the Internet.
- The library staff will perform searches on the Internet at the request of telephone patrons, if time permits.
- As in other areas of the Library, no food or drinks are allowed while using a computer.
- The use of cell phones in the Library is restricted to the entry area of each building.
- The library assumes no responsibility for damage to personal files, programs or diskettes resulting from the use of a library computer.
- The library is not responsible for users' loss of data.

Terms of Internet Access

- Patrons 18 years of age and older with a valid Mesquite Public Library card in good standing (no outstanding fines or overdues) are eligible to use the library's Public Access computers. As part of the application process, cardholders have signed an agreement to abide by library policies; therefore, it is recommended that patrons carefully read the Mesquite Public Library System Internet Policy prior to actual use of library computers. IDs and PINs will be issued to cardholders for use with the computers.
- Patrons 14–17 years of age are required to have a valid Mesquite Public Library card in good standing and written permission by a parent or legal guardian before they will be permitted to use library computers. Permission forms must be signed by parent/legal guardian in the presence of designated library staff members. IDs and PINs will be issued to cardholders for use with the computers.
- Patrons under the age of 14 will be required to have a parent/guardian present to assist them in conducting Internet searches. The ID and PIN of the adult cardholder present will be used for accessing the computers.
- Access to the Internet will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. A patron may use the Internet for one hour. If no one is waiting at the end of the hour, the time can be extended to an additional hour. Due to high demand, computer use is limited to a total of four hours per day.
- Computer reservations may be made for the current day only. There is a ten minute grace period on reservations. If the user has not signed on their reserved PC by ten minutes after the assigned time, the reservation expires and the computer is made available for someone else. Telephone reservations will not be taken.
- Patrons must respect the privacy and sensibilities of other users.
- Harassment of other computer users will not be permitted.
- Except for the stipulation of computer use by patrons under age 14 accompanied by their parent/guardian, only one patron is allowed at each computer work station. Other exceptions may be made at the discretion of librarians on duty.
- The following are not permitted:
 - Violation of copyright or software licensing agreements while using the Internet.
 - Downloading and installing software to the hard drive.
 - Access to chatrooms and game areas.
 - Wasting finite resources (including printing without paying).
 - Damaging or destroying equipment, changing the configuration of the library system's software, or changing the web page in any manner.
 - Access to sites requiring user fees.
 - Access to indecent or pornographic sites.
 - Access to sites that instruct in the construction or use of explosives or other dangerous materials.
 - Gambling on the Internet.
 - Any use of the Internet for illegal purposes.
- Downloading to diskette or printing is permitted as long as it is in compliance with copyright rules. Diskettes are available for purchase at the Circulation Desk. Public access computer print jobs are sent to a server at the Circulation Desk and must be paid for before they are released to the printer. Print jobs are \$0.10 per page.
- E-mail and listserve subscriptions are not available through the library's Internet account; however, Internet access computers may be used to access free e-mail and web page accounts available from a variety of sources. Note: Users, including minors, are warned that other individuals may obtain unauthorized access to personal information and/or may misrepresent themselves. Users, including minors, are advised not to share personal identification information to unknown or otherwise unverified sources via electronic communications.
- Due to the emerging nature of these services, policies are subject to change without notice and at the Library's discretion.

Any violation of the Mesquite Public Library System Internet Policy will result in the loss of the right to use this service and in some cases may result in the loss of library privileges. Library staff will strictly enforce this policy.

I have read and **ACCEPT** the terms and conditions of usage.