

## Ellsworth Computer Use Policy

The Ellsworth Public Library is providing access to the Internet as a means to enhance the information and learning opportunities for the citizens of the library's service area. The Board of Trustees has established the Internet use policy to ensure appropriate and effective use of this resource.

Unlike schools, the public library does not serve in loco parentis (in place of a parent). Librarians do not provide extensive care and supervision of children as they explore the Internet. The responsibility for what minors read or view on the Internet rests with the parents or guardians who grant permission for use. The parent, guardian or caregiver should instruct children never to give out personal information (i.e., name address, password, telephone number, credit card number) online.

The Library assumes no liability for any loss or damage to users' hardware, software, data or disks, nor for any personal damage or injury whatsoever incurred as a result of using the Library's electronic resources or wireless network. This includes, but is not limited to, damage or injury sustained from invasions of the user's privacy. Enter any credit card, personal, or financial information at your own risk.

### **User's Responsibilities When Using Library Computers**

The following activities are prohibited:

**1.** Violating federal, state, or local laws.

This includes, but is not limited to,

**a.** disregarding copyright laws or licensing agreements,

**(1)** U.S. copyright law (Title 17, U.S. Code) prohibits the unauthorized reproduction or distribution of copyrighted materials, except as permitted by the principles of "fair use." All responsibility for any consequences of copyright infringement lies with the user; the Library expressly disclaims any liability or responsibility resulting from such violations.

**b.** sending unsolicited chain letters or broadcast messages,

**c.** assuming another's identity,

**d.** sending threatening or harassing materials, and

**e.** viewing, printing, distributing, displaying, sending, or receiving images, text or graphics of obscene materials or material that violates laws relating to child pornography.

**(1)** Knowingly displaying obscene graphics or graphics that may be harmful to minors is not allowed under Wisconsin Statutes 944.21 and 948.11.

**2.** Disregarding the rules of network etiquette and interfering with the use of the network. These rules include using appropriate language, respecting the privacy of other users, not sending hate mail and discriminatory remarks, and not disrupting the use of the network.

**3.** Invading privacy of individuals by accessing their data or by harming, modifying, or destroying their data.

**4.** Installing personal software on the computer.

**5.** Disseminating or displaying to minors materials that are harmful to minors.

**6.** Gaining unauthorized access to any computing, information, or communications devices or resources. Illegal acts involving Library computing resources may also be subject to prosecution by local, state or federal authorities.

**7.** Damaging, altering, or degrading computer equipment, peripherals, software, or configurations will result in the cancellation of library computer privileges and may result in criminal prosecution. If there is a problem with the computer, please notify a library employee.

### **Failure to Comply**

Library employees will determine what constitutes inappropriate use of the Internet or violation of this policy. Failure to comply with the Internet And Computer Use Policy will result in a request from a library employee to discontinue the activity. Continued violations will result in a request to leave the library facility and may lead to revocation of library privileges including the right to visit the buildings and grounds for a period up to 6-months or permanently at the discretion of the Library Director. Repeat offenders or persons ordered from the premises who do not comply may be subject to arrest and prosecution for trespassing.