

Internet Use Policy

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The Belden Noble Memorial Library Board endorses the use of Internet as a source of information to complement traditional library collections and as a communication tool, connecting individuals and communities. At the same time, the Internet functions in an unregulated environment, and therefore provides access to a wide variety of resources over which the Belden Noble Memorial Library has no control. This policy establishes the provision of public network services to access the Internet, acceptable use of these services by users, staff responsibilities, and consequences of inappropriate behaviour or illegal activity by users.

Access to the Public Network

The library provides members of the public with internet access through the library's networked desktop computer as well as through the library's wireless network which can be used with personal mobile devices.

Wired and /or wireless access to the Internet via public computers or users' personal devices is provided free of charge.

The library provides additional accessibility features including high visibility keyboards, page magnifiers, etc.

To ensure equitable access to the public network and efficient use of resources, the Library reserves the right to set time limits or ask users to limit their time on the library's public computers.

Use by Children (under 18 years of age)

Children will be required to get a signed permission slip to use the public computer. Children may access all information and use all facilities provided by the library. Children's access to the Internet is compatible with the Belden Noble Memorial Library's position on Intellectual Freedom.

Parents and guardians are reminded that the restriction of a child's use of library wifi using a personal device is their responsibility. Children will be required to get a signed permission slip to use the public computer. The library board accepts no responsibility for enforcing restrictions which a parent or guardian places on a child's use of the Internet.

Acceptable Use of Technology in the Library

Users must be aware that computers and other devices, regardless of whether on the library's Internet service or not, are being used in public areas which is shared by people of all ages, backgrounds, and sensibilities. Some content is age-inappropriate for children. Some content may be offensive, objectionable and/or intimidating to other library patrons and/or staff. The staff reserve the right to redirect users whose activities on the public computers or their personal devices diminish the enjoyment of the library space by others.

Users should respect the privacy of other library patrons. However, library staff cannot guarantee privacy at the library workstations or when using personal mobile devices.

Users must respect Federal and New York State laws when using the public network. Use of the public network for illegal, actionable or criminal purposes is prohibited. Examples of such illegal activities include, but are not limited to, harassment or stalking, libel, illegal commerce or solicitation, "hacking" or tampering with other computer systems, viewing, downloading and/or printing child pornography.

Users of the public network may not violate or circumvent copyright and other intellectual property rights and liability for infringement rests with the user. The library shall follow fair dealing copyright principles.

Users should use caution when providing personal information over the Internet. As the Internet is not a secure medium, third parties may be able to obtain information about users' activities. The library assumes no responsibility for Internet content or damages, directly or indirectly, arising from its website, online services, or from its connections through to other Internet services.

Users may not modify, or otherwise willfully damage, the library's computer equipment, software, or network.

Library Responsibilities

The library proactively helps and promotes public access to quality information for all users. Library staff are available to assist with: a) finding and evaluating the quality of an Internet site; b) accessing the public workstations and personal devices; and c) accessing the library's subscription e-resources and e-books

The library respects the right of users to privacy and confidentiality with regards to information sought or received and resources consulted, acquired or transmitted.

Appendix A: Acceptable Use Agreement

By using the Library's computers and public Internet network, you agree to the following:

- a) Users should view the use of the library's public Internet network, whether on the library's public computers or a personal device the same way as they view the use of any library space and should restrain from activities that disturb others in the library space.
- b) Users may not use the library Internet network to access, display, download, upload, print, forward, or e-mail materials considered defamatory, discriminatory, obscene, or criminal in nature.
- c) Users may not violate or circumvent copyright and other intellectual property rights.
- d) Users may not misuse or abuse library computers or software
- e) Users should keep personal files or external storage systems (such as a USB stick or in the Cloud). Any user-created files found on the library's computers will be removed.
- f) Users shall not install any software on the library's computers or modify software installed by the library on the library's computers.

Users who are in the library but who are using their own electronic devices and using their own Internet service should also refrain from activities that disturb others in the library space.

Users who violate the rules may have their library privileges suspended or be required to leave the library. Illegal use, within the definitions of federal or state legislation, will be reported to the police.

February 26, 2026