

Pollard Memorial Library Senior Center Branch Guide to Public Use of the Internet

The Pollard Memorial Library ("PML") Senior Center Branch, through its access provider, Prospeed.net, Inc., offers limited public access to the Internet.

The Pollard Memorial Library Senior Center Branch will provide access to the Internet for library patrons during regular library branch hours. The intended use of Internet in the library is as a reference tool. This resource enhances and often goes beyond those that are locally available. The Internet is an unregulated global entity which is highly diverse and ever-changing. By providing access to it, the library is opening a gateway to information broader than its traditional practice of selecting materials and specific services. Users are encouraged to take advantage of the Internet and to exercise good judgment and discretion in their use of it.

The Main Library staff is always available to provide suggestions and strategies to help patrons with their searches. As always, your ideas, comments, and sharing of knowledge with us are welcomed.

Filtering

The Senior Center Library Branch provides filtered Internet workstations. The Library has implemented software filtering on public Internet-accessible computer terminals. Users should be aware, however, that all currently available filtering software results in a degree of both "underblocking" (i.e., permitting access to certain material that falls within the foregoing categories) and "overblocking" (i.e., denying access to certain constitutionally protected material that does not fall within the foregoing categories). The Library cannot and does not guarantee that the filtering software will block all materials that violates local, state, or federal law or materials that are harmful to minors. Nor can the Library guarantee that the filtering software will not restrict access to sites that may have legitimate research or other value.

Before using PML Internet services, users should be aware of the following:

- before accessing an Internet workstation, users must read and agree to the Pollard Memorial Library Senior Center Branch computer policy that the Internet may contain controversial or sexually explicit, or pornographic material which some may find offensive or inappropriate;
- that the Internet may contain information that is of a mature nature and may not be suitable for minors;
- that the Internet may contain information that is inaccurate or incomplete;
- that use of a filtering program on a workstation may not block access to all objectionable sites; conversely it may block access to useful informational sites;
- PML, in offering limited public access to the Internet, serves solely as a connection to the Internet system. Unlike other material within PML's collection, the library has no control over the availability of information links and the content of information retrieved which the provider or user may consider to be obscene, lewd, lascivious, filthy, excessively violent, harassing, racist or otherwise objectionable;
- the library reserves the right to limit Internet use time.

PML's Rules and Regulations for Public Internet Use

The Pollard Memorial Library Senior Center Branch (“PML”), through its access provider, Prospeed.net, Inc., is offering limited public access to the Internet. You may plug your external storage devices (MP3 players, IPODs, etc.) into the public computers on this floor to download data. Please use the USB ports in the front of the tower. We reserve the right to deny this service if too many patrons wish to download at the same time.

Examples of prohibited uses of PML equipment include, but are not limited to, the following:

- a) attempting to, or gaining access to any materials which is deemed unlawful by statute or court determination;
- b) engaging in any illegal activities on the Internet;
- c) accessing materials that are declared pornography, child pornography and/or harmful to minors;
- d) damaging or altering software components of network or database;
- e) attempting to, or gaining unauthorized access to files, passwords, data, etc.;
- f) unauthorized use including, but not limited to, the copying of copyright protected material;
- g) destruction or damage to equipment, software, or data;
- h) attempting to, or providing an unauthorized user with access to the Internet;
- i) violating in any way the licensing agreements of software and/or databases that PML may have;
- j) unauthorized downloading of information to a workstation’s hard drive;
- k) altering appearance of desktop and settings.

Patrons are also warned against disclosing personal information; such as name, school, address, and telephone numbers to strangers on the Internet.

Violations

Violations of the rules and regulations contained herein, as well as other PML rules and regulations, and any and all applicable provisions of local, state, and federal law(s) shall be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

Any violations of PML rules and regulations may, after a hearing on the matter, result in a loss of Internet and/or library privileges. Users, whose Internet and/or library privileges are revoked, may contest the revocation by appealing, in writing, to the PML Board of Trustees.

Public Users' Security

Users should be aware that the Internet is not a secure medium and that third parties may be able to obtain information regarding users' activities. However, the Pollard Memorial Library will not release information on the use of specific Internet resources by members of the public except as required by law or necessary for the proper operation of the Library.

Compliance

The Library reserves the right to take appropriate action to insure compliance with this policy. Library trustees and staff will continue to evaluate our Internet policies and procedures for

children and adults and make modifications as needed to insure equitable and safe access for all. Violations may result in revocation of computer privileges. Unlawful activities will be dealt with in an appropriate manner.

**This policy is subject to review by the Pollard Memorial Library Board of Trustees.
Adopted February 9, 2011.**