

INTERNET POLICY

In response to advances in technology and the changing needs of the community, the Sheridan County Public Library System endeavors to develop collections, resources, and services that meet the cultural, informational, recreational, and educational needs of the Sheridan County Library community. It is within this context that the Sheridan County Public Library System offers access to the Internet.

The Sheridan County Public Library has no control over information accessed through the Internet and cannot be held responsible for its content. The Internet is a global entity with a highly diverse user population and library patrons use it at their own risk.

There are information resources, which you may personally find controversial, offensive, or inappropriate. Not all sources on the Internet provide accurate, complete or current information. You need to be a good information consumer, questioning the validity of the information you find.

Sheridan County Fulmer Public Library Public Filtered Internet Terminals:

Unless accompanied by a parent or guardian, youth through the age of 17 years may only use the library's filtered Internet terminals. For youth up to 12 years of age filtered Internet terminals are available in the Children's Library. For youth 12 - 17 years of age filtered Internet terminals are available in the young adult area, *Teen Central*. **Patrons are advised to supervise their children's Internet sessions. Internet filters are not perfect and do not filter 100% of web sites that contain obscene material.**

Sheridan County Fulmer Public Library Public Non-Filtered Internet Terminals:

Adults 18 and over are restricted to Internet terminals in the reference area. Youth under the age of 18, accompanied by a parent or guardian, may use the Internet terminals in the reference area.

Branch Library Internet Terminals:

For individuals who would like to filter their, or their child's, access to Internet sites, a list of web sites offering filtering capability is available at the desk. As with all Internet resources, the library assumes no control over, or responsibility for, the content of web sites, nor for the effectiveness of Internet search engines and their filters. **Patrons are advised to supervise their children's Internet sessions. Internet filters are not perfect and do not filter 100% of web sites that contain obscene material.**

Inappropriate Use of Library Computers:

As there are people of varying ages, backgrounds and interests using the library, it is inappropriate to use library computers to view obscene material. Any patron who views these materials will be asked to close all inappropriate web sites and cease viewing such sites from library computers. Any repeat offense will be grounds for suspension of Internet and/or library privileges. It is unlawful to view child pornography as well as other material that is harmful to juveniles in violation of Federal, State or local laws. **Any suspected criminal activity using library computers shall be immediately reported to the police.** Materials obtained or copied on a library Internet connection may be subject to copyright laws which govern the making of reproductions of copyrighted works. Violation of the copyright law is considered an inappropriate use of the library Internet connection. The library is not responsible for ensuring that proper copyright procedures are followed.