Newman Riga Library
Internet Safety and Computer Use Policy

POLICY

Recognizing that the Internet represents an important and vital electronic resource that allows access to ideas, information and commentary from around the world, the Newman Riga Library shall provide Internet access to Library users as part of its collection and resources.

The Internet offers access to a wealth of excellent material. However, because the Internet provides easy access to a diverse array of resources, the Library does not endorse the viewpoints nor can it vouch for the accuracy, authority, timeliness or usefulness of all the information found on it. The Internet is an unregulated medium that changes constantly and unpredictably. The Newman Riga Library is not responsible for the content of sites on the Internet. Due to technical requirements or incompatibility with the library's computer system, some Internet sites and services may not be accessible on library computers.

In providing public access to the Internet, the Newman Riga Library shall be in compliance with provisions of the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) and the Neighborhood Children's Internet Protection Act (NCIPA). Per this compliance, the library shall endeavor, to the extent practical, to block access by minors to inappropriate matter and visual images on the Internet and that are defined by law as "obscene," "child pornography" or "harmful to minors," and to monitor, to the extent practical, use by minors of electronic mail, chat rooms, and other forms of direct electronic communication so as to prevent unauthorized disclosure, use and dissemination of personal identification.

The means for achieving the above shall include visual observation by staff to the extent practical, and the use of filtering software. Users are reminded that the Library's ability to restrict access and exposure to images and information covered by CIPA and NCIPA is subject to the limitations of filtering software and physical layout of library facilities. It is the ultimate responsibility of parents and legal guardians to monitor and guide their own children's use of all library resources, including the Internet. Parents are encouraged to take an active role in their children's use of the Internet and to talk about their personal values and expectations for their children's use of this resource.

Adult patrons, age 18 and above, may request that websites that have been blocked by filtering software be unblocked. Patrons making this request must be able to show proof of age if asked. Acceptable proof is either a valid driver's license or a valid non-driver's I.D. card. If the user believes the site has been blocked incorrectly, a request for review may be submitted to the Library Director or a designated staff member who will review the site based upon the criteria in the Library's Materials Selection Policy. If the site is found to have been blocked in error, arrangements will be made to allow the user to view the site.

GENERAL RULES AND LIMITS REGARDING INTERNET ACCESS AND COMPUTER USE:

1. Use of the Internet or library computers for activities that violate local, state or federal laws is prohibited. This includes activities such as accessing child pornography, committing fraud, hacking, or spreading libel or slander.

2. Patrons are cautioned that the Internet is not a secure medium and all transactions, files and communications may be subject to unauthorized access by third parties. However, the library will not release information on the use of electronic resources by individuals except as required by law.

3. It is the responsibility of all users of electronic resources at the Newman Riga Library to respect intellectual property rights. Copyright restrictions may exist for individual electronic resources. Patrons may only make copies allowable by copyright laws or licensed software agreements.

4. Users of the library's computers and peripheral equipment are expected to abide by the rules of the library, including the Rules of Conduct. Copies of these rules are available upon request at any reference desk. In accordance with the authority of the Newman Riga Library Board of Trustees, persons who do not abide by these rules may be barred from the library, prohibited from using computers or other library equipment and/or prosecuted for illegal activities.

5. The Newman Riga Library expressly disclaims any liability or responsibility arising from access to or use of information obtained through its electronic resources or any consequences thereof.

6. Library staff members are not able to provide in-depth computer assistance but will answer questions and, as time allows, help users locate and use resources on the Internet or on other electronic resources in the library.

7. Patrons are reminded that the library's computer terminals are located in public areas that are shared with library users and staff of all ages, backgrounds and sensibilities. Individuals are expected to consider this diversity and respect the sensibilities of others when accessing potentially offensive information or images.

8. The Library reserves the right to control the time, place and manner of public Internet access and use to ensure that such use does not have a negative impact on the use of the library by other patrons. The library seeks to provide an atmosphere conducive to the best use of its resources. To this end, an effort will be made to balance the rights of users to access constitutionally protected information resources with the rights of users and staff to work in a public setting free from disruptive sounds and images.

USERS SHALL NOT:
- install, delete or modify library hardware or software
- move or change the arrangement of library computers and attached equipment
- download software from the Internet onto the library's computers
- use the network to make unauthorized entry into other information or communication services or resources
- make any attempt to damage computer equipment or software
- make any attempt to cause degradation of system performance
- misuse library computers or other equipment and resources