Computer/Internet Policy

Viborg Public Library 114 N. Main   Viborg, SD 57070

Enacted 10/10/2024

The Viborg Public Library offers free wireless internet service.

The Internet is an unregulated global information resource. The Viborg Public Library has no control over information that can be accessed through the Internet and cannot guarantee the accuracy and/or authenticity of information accessed through this resource. Users who find information or subject matter that is erroneous, out-of-date, illegal and/or offensive should contact the original producer or distributor of that work directly. The library offers wireless internet service which is open and unsecured.

Please be aware that the library has no control over information published by third parties that is accessed through the Internet and cannot monitor it or be held responsible for any such content accessed on the internet.

In compliance with the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA), all computers in the Viborg Public Library are subject to a protective/restrictive firewall. The technology screens out sites which may reasonably be construed as obscene, as that term is defined in section 1460 of title 18, United States Code; or child pornography, as that term is defined in section 2256 of title 18, United States Code; or harmful to minors as defined in section 1703, Pub. L. 106-544.

Internet Access by Minors: Regulations and Restrictions

The Viborg Public Library is compliant with the State of South Dakota House Bill 1197 which was passed in 2024 with a compliance date of January 1, 2025.

Viborg Public Library provides computer access to minors, including filtered access to the Internet. To the extent practical, steps shall be taken to promote the safety and security of users of Viborg Public Library's online computer network when using electronic mail, chat rooms, instant messaging, and other forms of direct electronic communications.

Specifically, as required by CIPA, prevention of inappropriate network usage includes: (a) unauthorized access, including so-called 'hacking,' and other unlawful activities; and (b) unauthorized disclosure, use, and dissemination of personal identification information regarding minors.

Parental Responsibilities

As previously stated, in compliance with the Children's Internet Protection Act, the library utilizes a firewall, a protection measure that blocks access to images deemed (a) obscene; (b) child pornography; or (c) harmful to minors. The Viborg Public Library does not monitor and has no control over the information published by third parties that is accessed through the Internet and cannot be held responsible for any such content accessed on the internet. (Section 230 disclaimer).

Library staff cannot be responsible for the internet supervision of children in the library. Parents and adult caregivers must assume responsibility for their children's access to, and use of, library resources and determine and monitor their children's use of online library materials and resources. The library expects parents and adult caregivers to monitor and supervise children's use of the library's resources, including the internet, in selecting material that is consistent with personal and family values. Parents are cautioned that the library and its available resources may contain materials that some find controversial. Viborg Public Library also encourages parents to discuss the use of the Internet with their minor children in relation to family values and boundaries.

Internet Use - Library Rules

The Library expects patrons to use the Internet in a responsible manner respecting the rights of others and library rules of behavior. Internet computers are located in public areas used by library patrons of all ages, backgrounds, sensitivities, and values. Individuals are expected to consider this when accessing potentially controversial information and images. The library does not condone the use of library equipment to access material that is obscene, features pornography, or is harmful to minors. The use of the Internet is a privilege, not a right, and unacceptable use can result in suspension or cancellation of the privilege.

Users may not engage in actions that include, but are not limited to:
- destroying, altering, preventing, or interfering with the configuration of the library computers
- violating copyright or software license agreements
- ignoring time, printing, and workstation occupancy limits
- invading or violating another library user's privacy
- sending, receiving, printing, or displaying text or graphics that may reasonably be construed as obscene or pornographic
- viewing any site that may create a disruptive environment for other library users or staff
- engaging in any activity that is deliberately offensive or creates an intimidating or hostile environment; listening to audio without the use of headphones
- misrepresenting oneself, by access code, password, or signature
- any illegal, criminal, or unethical purposes

Viborg Public Library reserves the right to disable or restrict access to any website that violates library/city rules or policies, disrupts library operations, disrupts its Internet or network connectivity, or causes damage to its computer hardware.

Noncompliance with this policy may result in revocation of computer privileges and/or library use privileges. Unlawful activities can be referred to the appropriate legal authority to handle.

It is assumed that the use of the library's computers constitutes acceptance of the Policy.

Disclaimer

Viborg Public Library is not responsible for any damages, direct or indirect, or for any liability that may arise from a patron's use of the library's Internet services or information obtained through the internet. Internet users should be aware that the internet is not a secure medium. It is possible for third parties to obtain information regarding an individual user's search activities. Users should be very cautious about providing personal information over the internet.

Viborg Public Library:
- cannot guarantee confidentiality over the Internet and users who enter personal information do so at their own risk
- is not responsible for work or information lost due to computer or system malfunction, computer session timeout, or failure to save information
- is not responsible for misplaced or stolen equipment
- is not responsible for controlling children's Internet use