



Technology & Computer Use Policy

The Edgartown Public Library is committed to meeting the information needs of the residents and visitors of Martha's Vineyard. Access to computer technology and the Internet are among the resource options that the library offers with an eye towards providing a broad spectrum of information gathering to suit the needs of our patrons.

Internet Use

The Edgartown Public Library does not monitor or exert control over information accessed through the Internet and is not responsible for the content, quality or nature of information presented. Under Chapter 151B, of the Massachusetts General Law, the library has a duty to maintain a place of public accommodation where all patrons can be free from unreasonable interference with their use and enjoyment of the library facilities.

The library respects users' right to confidentiality and privacy. Each user is asked to respect the privacy of other computer users. Users are cautioned that the Internet is not a secure medium. All transactions, files and communications, including transmission of personal financial information, may be subject to access by third parties, whether legal or illegal. The library will not release information on the use of electronic resources by members of the public, except as required by law.

The library supports free and open access to the Internet for all library users and believes that this is consistent with the Library Bill of Rights, the Freedom to Read, and the Freedom to View, as stated by the American Library Association and adopted by the Library Board of Trustees. The Library expressly disclaims any liability or responsibility arising from access to or use of information obtained through its electronic information systems, or any consequences thereof.

Children's Use of the Internet

The library is aware of parental and governmental concerns about children's safety on the Internet. The library staff does not monitor individual use of the Internet. Access to the Internet carries the potential to deliberately or accidentally access inaccurate, inappropriate, or offensive material. Therefore, parents and guardians are encouraged to take an active role in their children's use of the Internet and to talk about their personal values, expectations and rules for safe behavior when using this resource.

Parents should encourage children to speak to the library staff if they get to a web site that makes them uncomfortable. All electronic resources available through the library are provided equally to library users. The library affirms the right and responsibility of parents or legal guardians to guide their children's use of all library resources, including the Internet. As is the case with all other library

materials, any restriction of a child's access to the Internet is the responsibility of the child's parent or legal guardian.

Parents, or legal guardians, not the library or its staff, are responsible for the Internet, email, chat rooms and electronic resource information selected and/or accessed by their children.

Children 8 years of age and under must be in the company of an adult at all times while using a computer. An adult for the purpose of this policy refers to someone 18 years of age or older. Parents are responsible for their child's Internet use.

Computers located in the Children's Room are reserved for use by patrons up to 17 years of age. Library staff reserve the right to limit computer time in the Children's Room.

Rules for using Technology and the Internet

U.S. copyright law (Title 17, U.S. Code) prohibits the unauthorized reproduction or distribution of copyrighted materials, except as permitted by the principles of "fair use". Violation of copyright laws can result in severe civil and criminal penalties. When in doubt about whether or not a use may infringe on a copyright, patrons should ask the copyright owner for permission to use or reproduce the copyrighted material. Library patrons who infringe copyrighted material may have their computer and Internet privileges suspended.

Patrons must abide by any end-user agreements or other terms and conditions required for use of downloadable media content provided by the library. If the library determines a patron is violating permitted uses of the Content, we reserve the right to suspend or terminate library privileges.

Internet Use

- The library staff is available as time permits to provide suggestions and ideas to help patrons with their searches. Because of the many different Internet applications available, the library is unable to provide complete technical support.
- Internet resources are for legal and legitimate uses only. Specific unacceptable uses are, but not limited to:
 - Tampering with icons, bookmarks, computer hardware or software
 - Degrading or disrupting equipment or system performance
 - Vandalizing the data of another user
 - Gaining unauthorized access to resources or entities
 - Invading the privacy of individuals
 - Violating Federal, State or local laws
 - Harassment of other users
 - Viewing content not protected by the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution (obscenity or child pornography) or displaying illegal content
 - Transmission of computer viruses

- The display of materials which library staff determines is intended to or reasonably likely to create an intimidating, hostile or sexually offensive environment in the library is prohibited.

Use of Library Provided Technology

Library users must cooperate with library staff as requested to ensure equitable computer use and a safe computing environment. Patrons are required to abide by the following guidelines for use of the Library's information technology assets. Unacceptable use may result in suspension of access privileges to the computers, exclusion from the library, and possible prosecution. Library staff may shorten any session if need demands it; or terminate a session if terminals are used inappropriately. Personal technology using the library's wireless connection are covered by this policy.

- Use of the library technology and network in a way that violates local, state or federal laws is expressly prohibited.
- Children 8 years of age and under must be in the company of an adult at all times while using a computer. Please see Children's Use of the Internet for detailed information.
- Adult Computers:
 - Patrons 18 years and older may use public computers located on the second floor on a first-come, first-served basis. If the need arises, staff are authorized to shorten any session in order to accommodate patron demand.
- Children's Computers:
 - Laptops are available for use by patrons up to 17 years of age. Inquire at the Children's Desk.
- Printing:
 - The library will charge a \$.25 per-page fee for all pages processed through printers whether or not paper is provided by the Library.
- Fax/Scan:
 - Fax and scan services are provided upon request. The library will charge a \$1 per page fee for all scanned or faxed documents.

*Adopted September 13, 2012 by the Edgartown Library Board of Trustees
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