Memorial Library of Nazareth and Vicinity

19 -1 Internet Policies

Memorial Library
OF NAZARETH & VICINITY
ESTABLISHED 1915

Purpose

In response to advances in technology and the changing information needs of the community, the Memorial Library of Nazareth strives to develop collections, resources, and services that meet the cultural, informational, educational and recreational needs of our diverse community. It is within this context that the library offers access to the Internet.

Policy Regarding Access to Internet Resources

The Internet is a global communications network and information resource. As a result, the information on the internet is as varied as its many users. The Memorial Library of Nazareth and Vicinity does not monitor and has no control over the information available through this resource. The library cannot assume responsibility for the accuracy, quality, or timeliness of the Internet information. Some information on the Internet may be considered controversial in nature. The determination of viability and usefulness of Internet information falls upon the patron.

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 on the Internet. The Memorial Library of Nazareth and Vicinity, however, 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.

The Memorial Library of Nazareth and Vicinity assumes no responsibility for any damages, direct or in-direct, arising from the use of its computing resources.

Internet workstations cannot be used for any fraudulent purpose, including any activities prohibited under applicable federal, Pennsylvania, or local laws. Users may not display and/or print materials that may be unlawful.

Internet resources through the library are provided equally to all users regardless of age. The library upholds and affirms the right of each individual to access constitutionally protected material. A minor's access to the Internet, as well as access to all other materials, is the sole responsibility of the parent or legal guardian. The library strongly encourages parents or legal guardians to supervise their children's Internet use and to provide them with guidelines about acceptable use. It is the responsibility of parents and/or guardians to instruct their children not to give private information about themselves or others, when using web sites or e-mail. The library does not have the right or the responsibility to determine the appropriateness of a particular resource for any minor. However, in no event is any person under the age of 18 permitted to view any obscene and other sexually explicit materials and performances as defined and described in 19 Pa. C.S. 5903 and any amendments thereto.

The Memorial Library of Nazareth and Vicinity is committed to providing an environment free from sexual harassment. Adults maybe advised that while accessing and viewing sexual material

is within the law for an adult, the risk of exposure to minors and the consequences of being "harmful to minors" are significant. When children are in the proximity or even if another is expressly offended, the patron viewing such material may be asked to close a website. Users may not display on screens and/or printers, materials that may be unlawful or prohibited under any applicable federal, Pennsylvania, or local laws. The Library Staff will be the sole arbiter of what constitutes unacceptable content. The Library Staff reserves the right to end an Internet session at any time if it is creating a disturbance.

CIPA Compliance

The Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) is the federal law that requires all computers in a public library to be filtered if that library accepts any federal funds for Internet access or computers used for Internet access. [Supreme Court decision: United States v. American Library Ass'n Inc. No. 02-361 (June 23, 2003)]. The Memorial Library of Nazareth complies with the requirements of CIPA.

All computers in the Memorial Library of Nazareth and Vicinity are filtered. Please be aware that filters are unreliable, at times blocking sites of legitimate information or educational value, or allowing access to sites that are illegal, obscene or sexually explicit within the meaning of 18 Pa. Cons. Stat. Sect. 5903.

The Memorial Library of Nazareth and Vicinity uses filtering software that blocks or filters Internet access to some Internet sites that may not be consistent with the policy of the Memorial Library of Nazareth.

Parents or legal guardians, and not the Library or its staff, remain responsible for monitoring their children's use of the Internet and for the information selected and/or accessed by their children. The library strongly encourages parents and/or guardians to supervise their children's Internet use and to provide them with guidelines about acceptable use.

The Memorial Library of Nazareth and Vicinity computers cannot be used for any fraudulent or unlawful purposes, including any activities prohibited under any applicable federal, Pennsylvania, or local laws including activities in violation of 18 Pa. Cons. Stat. Sec. 5902, which prohibits certain acts of public indecency.

An authorized Memorial Library of Nazareth and Vicinity staff member may override the filter technology protection measure for a minor (18 years or younger, as defined by CIPA) in the event that the filter wrongly blocks Internet access to a site with legitimate information value.

Complaint Procedure

Any patron who wishes to file a complaint about the filtering software on the library computers may do so within thirty (30) days to:

1. The Library Director and/or the Library Board President.
2. The Federal Communications Commission.

Approved by the Library Board of Directors on: February 26, 2019