

PUBLIC ACCESS TO ELECTRONIC INFORMATION NETWORKS

ELECTRONIC NETWORKS AND THE LIBRARY'S MISSION

Libraries make it possible for citizens to have access to the information they need to make informed decisions. As a member of the Illinois Library and Information Network (ILLINET), the Grayslake Area Public Library District is committed to networking, which represents good public policy by maximizing the use of the resources of all types of libraries. Every library user benefits from expanded access to information beyond the four walls of a single library building.

The Grayslake Area Public Library District and all ILLINET libraries use electronic information networks such as the Internet for a variety of purposes:

1. Access to shared automation systems that provide bibliographic access to the collections of the local library and libraries in the region and across the state.
2. Access to the wealth of information resources available via the Internet.
3. Access to general and specialized shared licensed databases available to ILLINET member libraries through regional and statewide cooperative programs.

RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER LIBRARY POLICIES

The Grayslake Area Public Library District's Policy for Access to Electronic Information Networks is part of the library's overall policy structure and should be interpreted in conjunction with other existing policies. Copies of all library policies are available upon request from a library staff member.

LIBRARY PATRONS' RIGHTS

Library patrons have certain rights with respect to use of electronic information networks such as the Internet. This library will work with other libraries in the Illinois Library and Information Network to preserve and protect these rights, subject to limitations imposed by licensing and payment agreements with database providers.

Library patrons have the right to confidentiality and privacy in the use of electronic information networks to the extent possible given certain constraints, such as proximity of other patrons and staff in public access settings.

Library patrons have the right to equitable access to electronic information networks.

Library patrons have the right to access and read all library service policies and discuss questions with appropriate library staff.

PATRON ASSISTANCE AND INSTRUCTION

The Grayslake Area Public Library District's staff may provide assistance to patrons in the use of electronic information networks as time and staff knowledge permits. Printed and online documentation and instructions are available at or near points of service.

USE OF EQUIPMENT AND NETWORKS

The Grayslake Area Public Library District requires that library patrons using electronic information networks such as the Internet do so within the guidelines of acceptable use. The following activities are unacceptable:

1. Use of electronic information networks for any purpose which results in the harassment of other users,

2. Destruction of, damage to, or unauthorized alteration of the library's computer equipment software or network security procedures,
3. Use of electronic information networks in any way which violates a Federal or State law,
4. Use of electronic information networks in any way which violates licensing and payment agreements between [this library] and network/database providers,
5. Unauthorized duplication of copy-protected software or violation of software license agreements,
6. Violation of system security,
7. Behaving in a manner that is disruptive to other users, including but not limited to overuse of computer equipment which serves to deny access to other users.

LIBRARY PROCEDURES RELATING TO ELECTRONIC NETWORKS

This library has developed certain procedures to assist staff and patrons in the use of electronic information resources. These procedures include (but are not necessarily limited to) the following:

1. Time limits for access to allow use of resources by the maximum number of library patrons,
2. Cost recovery for printouts using the library's computer equipment,
3. Priority usage for accessing the library's online catalog,
4. Specific instructions for downloading including compliance with virus protection measures,
5. Restrictions on the use of personal software on library computer equipment,

BREACH OF POLICY

Violation of any aspect of this policy may result in the loss of library privileges.

Adopted July 11, 2000; Reviewed August 9, 2005; Reviewed February 10, 2009