IX. Computer and Internet Use

The Mahomet Public Library provides public access to the Internet as a way of enhancing it collections with electronic resources from information networks around the world. Internet access is important to Library users for conducting research, retrieving information, exploring ideas and facilitating communication.

The computer and Internet resources accessible through the library are provided equally to all users, with the understanding that it is the individual user's responsibility to demonstrate good judgment, respect for others, and appropriate conduct while using the library resources and facilities.

The library's wireless network and its public access computers are available free of charge. The library's computer workstations may be used for up to two hours per day. Any restrictions on borrowing status due to fines or fees do not apply to public use computers.

User Responsibilities

- **Legal Use**. Use of computers in the library must be for legal purposes only.

- **Consideration for Others**. The library is a public building and objectionable or pornographic images that can be seen by others (either intentionally or accidentally, and either on screen or in print) are not permissible.

- **Privacy**. All users are expected to respect the privacy of those using the workstations.

Inappropriate Use

Patrons may not use library computers or Wi-Fi to do the following:

- View, print, distribute, display, send, or receive images or graphics of obscene materials or material that violates laws relating to child pornography.

- Disseminate, exhibit, or display to minors materials that are deemed harmful to minors.

- Use an Internet workstation to transmit threatening or harassing material.

- Engage in any activity that is deliberately offensive or creates an intimidating or a hostile environment.

- Use a computer in a way that disturbs or interferes with other users, employees, or the operations of the library.
- Violate copyright or software licensing agreements.

- Gain unauthorized access to any computing, information, or communications devices or resources.

- Damage, alter or degrade computer equipment, peripherals, software and configurations.

Copyright

U.S. Copyright law (Title 17, U.S. Code) prohibits the unauthorized reproduction or distribution of copyrighted materials, except as permitted by the principle of "fair use". Users may not copy or distribute electronic materials (including email, text, images, programs or data) without the explicit permission of the copyright holder. Any responsibility for consequences of copyright infringement lies with the user. The library expressly disclaims any liability or responsibility resulting from such use.

Liability

Users access library computers, software, and the wireless network at their own risk. The library wireless network is not secure. Information sent from a wireless device could be captured within or near the library. The library assumes no responsibility for equipment, or any alterations or loss of configurations, security, or data (captured or otherwise) resulting from connection to the library wireless network.

The library assumes no responsibility for any damage, direct or indirect, that users or anyone else may suffer through access to the Internet. The library is not responsible for equipment malfunction, damage to disks or software, loss of data, transmission of data (secure or otherwise), or for personal computers, laptops, or other devises. Data cannot be saved on a library computer, but a flash drive can be borrowed or purchased at the circulation desk.

The library assumes no responsibility for infringement of U.S. Copyright Law governing the reproduction, distribution, adaptation, public performance, and public display of copyrighted material.

Annual Review

The Library Board of Trustees, which endorses the principles expressed in the Library Bill of Rights and the Freedom to Read Statement of the American Library Association, shall review the effectiveness and merit of its Internet policies annually at a regularly scheduled board meeting.

IX-A: Computer Use by Children

The library offers assistance to help children experience the Internet in a safe and rewarding manner, including web safety tips and links to recommended web sites for children. Because information on the Internet constantly changes, it is not possible to totally protect or control what children may encounter. Children who use the Internet unsupervised may be exposed to inappropriate or disturbing information and images. The library respects the responsibility of all parents or guardians to guide their own children's use of the library, its resources and services. Parents are encouraged to discuss with their children the use of the Internet in relation to their values and boundaries and to monitor their children's use of the computers.

IX-B: Responsibility and Authority of Library Employees

Library employees shall provide assistance to identify appropriate sites for Internet searches and answer questions on the use of computers and other electronic resources in the library. Time constraints may prevent employees from providing in-depth computer or other technology training to individual users.

Library employees shall take prompt and appropriate action to enforce the Computer and Internet Access Policy. They are authorized to terminate an Internet use session by anyone who fails to comply with these policies.

Library employees may refuse to assist a user if they believe that it will require them to view pornographic images on a computer display screen or in printed form. They will instead request assistance from the Director.

IX-C: Loss of Computer Privileges

All library users must comply with this Internet Access Policy. Computer workstations will be managed in a manner consistent with the library's Rules of Conduct. Failure to comply will result in revocation of computer use privileges for a time to be determined by the Library Director.

If library staff or guests notice graphics of obscene materials or materials that violate laws of child pornography, library staff will tell the computer user to remove them. If the user does not cooperate, library staff will end their computer session.

Violations may also lead to revocation of library privileges, including the right to visit the library building and grounds. Offenders ordered from the premises who do not comply may be subject to arrest and prosecution for trespassing.