Internet Acceptable Use Policy

Member libraries have the option to receive internet and support services through a C/W MARS internet connection.C/W MARS assumes no responsibility for internet content, including information that may be inaccurate or out-of-date. C/W MARS endorses the ALA Library Bill of Rights, its interpretations, and in particular Access to Digital Resources and Services [https://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/librarybill/interpretations/digital]

C/W MARS does not control or monitor material available on the internet. Parents and guardians, not the member libraries or their staff, are responsible for information accessed by their children. C/W MARS member library patrons and staff must follow the policies of this Network and its Internet Service Providers.

Prohibited use includes (but is not limited to):

- Using the internet for illegal purposes which violate federal, state, or local laws
- Using the internet in violation of the Massachusetts General Law 272 Section 31, the Harmful to Minors statute
- Unauthorized copying, file sharing, downloading or distributing commercial software or other copyright-protected works or material in any format (e.g. music, movies, or other audio or digital material) in violation of state, federal, or international copyright laws
- Transmission of spam, phishing, or malicious messages or software of any type
- Transmission of threatening, harassing, defamatory, or obscene materials
- Unauthorized access to or interference with local or remote computers, devices, or networks
- Deliberate attempts to circumvent data protection, security measures, or library use policies

Each member library is responsible for informing its patrons of prohibited uses and reporting any violations of this policy to C/W MARS. In the event that any of the

prohibited activities occur, C/W MARS will work with the member library to address the problem, including suspending or terminating internet access to that device or patron until such time that the library implements procedures to stop this activity. If the member library believes criminal activity has occurred, C/W MARS will work with the member library to notify the necessary authorities.

Public library workstations are shared and not private or secure. While individual libraries may employ software that helps clear history and browser data after use, patrons are advised that any information or data saved on library computers may be accessible by others.

Patrons should understand and acknowledge that hotspots and public wifi are unsecured, wireless networks and that any information being sent or received could potentially be intercepted by another wireless user. Users are strongly cautioned against transmitting their credit card information, passwords, and any other sensitive, personal information while using a public network.

Individual C/W MARS libraries may have local internet policies that may apply in addition to this policy.
Users Council approved

Users Council revised

June 25, 2001

March 21, 2023