

MONTANA STATE LIBRARY COMMISSION

INTERNET USE POLICY

The Internet is a “network of networks” that provides access to a wide range of information resources. Montana State Library provides access to the Internet via World Wide Web (WWW) browsers.

The quality and authenticity of information available over the Internet may be quite varied. The Internet can be an excellent place to find current, valid sources of information. Due to lack of regulation, it may also contain data that is out of date or incorrect. Individuals may also locate materials on the Internet that are personally offensive. It is the responsibility of the Internet user to consider the source, dates and context of the information being viewed. In providing free and open access to Internet services the Montana State Library is not responsible for the content, accuracy or timeliness of Internet information obtained by its patrons.

USE OF THE INTERNET

Any patron of the Montana State Library can access the Internet in the library during business hours, Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. **Users must sign in at the terminal they use and are restricted to a total of 60 minutes per day.** Montana State Library has no facility for providing networked access for personal email, word processing, personal computer laptops, notebooks or other peripherals such as printing devices. Access to the Internet resources via the Montana State Library network and the State of Montana network is available only at designated public workstations within the library. You are encouraged to save materials to disk, but are asked to bring the disk to the reference desk to be checked for viruses prior to inserting disk into a public access machine. Local network or host server problems may render some sites inaccessible. If a technical problem occurs, please notify State Library staff members so assistance can be provided. The Montana State Library does not assume responsibility for damage or loss of data while using the equipment at the library. There is no charge for printing information, but use the printers sparingly so this “free” policy can continue. Please end Internet sessions by clicking on the “Home” button or icon located on the web browser software.

The Internet may not be used to commit or perpetrate any illegal action or activity as defined by local, state and/or federal law. Persons doing so are subject to prosecution. Further, Internet may not be used to violate copyright law or software licensing agreements. It may also not be used to access restricted or secured computer systems or data or for malicious disruption of computer/network services or to add, delete, alter or install hardware or software

Montana State Library promotes the *ALA Bill of Rights* and supports user privacy, as well as acknowledges the responsibility of parental awareness for their children’s Internet use. As such, parents are encouraged to decide what types of information are appropriate for their **own** children. Parents may choose to

discuss *My Rules for Online Safety* with their children. (Items in italics will be links or URLs)

Montana State Library staff are happy to help you learn basic skills to navigate the Internet. You may need to obtain more information on certain functions or services. Many of the printed materials about Internet are located in the general collection at 004.6. State Library staff are happy to provide assistance in finding these materials.