LIVERMORE PUBLIC LIBRARY
ACCESS TO ELECTRONIC INFORMATION, SERVICES AND NETWORKS POLICY

PURPOSE

The Board of Trustees of the Livermore Public Library recognizes that freedom of speech and expression are central to the successful maintenance of a free society and acknowledges the concepts contained in the American Library Association's Access to Electronic Information, Freedom to View and Library Bill of Rights statements. The Board of Trustees supports the idea that all members of the community have free and equal access to the entire range of library resources, regardless of content, approach, format or amount of detail. These rights extend to all users of the public library including minors. Access to information is a fundamental right and helps guarantee an informed citizenry.

The mission of the Livermore Public Library is "to encourage the development of a lifelong interest in reading and learning by providing materials and services of popular interest, emphasizing and encouraging reading by children, supplementing the educational needs of the community and furnishing timely, accurate information." The Library endeavors to provide collections, services and resources to fulfill this mission. Electronic information resources provide the library with an unprecedented opportunity to fulfill the library's mission and to expand the scope of information available to Livermore citizens. Electronic databases and networks such as the Internet are supplementing and sometimes taking the place of the printed resources traditionally found in libraries. Electronic information research skills are increasingly important to students, workers and ordinary citizens.

INTERNET ACCESS

Internet access is available for all users of the Livermore Public Library . The Library's Internet access is intended as an information resource. The Internet allows users to connect to networks of resources outside the library. The Internet is a global entity with a highly diverse user population. The Internet has no federal, state or local control of its users or content. The Internet and its available resources may contain materials of a controversial nature. The Livermore Public Library does not monitor and has no control over the information accessed through the Internet and cannot be held responsible for its content. Users are cautioned that accuracy, completeness and currency of information found on the Internet varies widely. Library patrons use the Internet at their own risk. Preventing users from accessing all systems, networks and services which may or do contain materials, messages or graphics that might be considered offensive to a user or inappropriate to minors is not technically feasible.

RESPONSIBILITY OF USERS

Individuals must accept responsibility for determining what is appropriate. The Library recognizes and supports Federal laws dealing with the access to information. It upholds and affirms the right of each individual to have access to constitutionally protected materials and also affirms the right and responsibility of parents to determine and monitor their children's use of library materials and resources. Parents and guardians are encouraged to work closely with their children. Parents are expected to monitor and supervise children's use of the Internet in selecting material that is consistent with personal and family values. The Livermore Public Library does not provide this monitoring or supervision.

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UNACCEPTABLE USE

With the freedom and privilege to access computer networks comes the responsibility to use them in a responsible and ethical manner. Unacceptable uses include but are not limited to the following:

Using resources for other than educational, informational and recreational purposes

Using resources for unauthorized, illegal or unethical purposes

Attempting to modify or gain access to files, passwords or data belonging to the Library or others

Seeking unauthorized access to a computer system or damaging or altering software components of a network or database

Destruction of or damage to equipment

Making unauthorized copies of copyrighted or licensed software or data

Violation of library usage policies and regulations

Harassment of other users

Libeling or slandering

Violation of another user's privacy

Violations may result in disciplinary action up to and including exclusion of the user from access to the library network.

Approved: Livermore Public Library Board of Trustees, 02/27/97