

## **Heermance Memorial Library**

### **Internet Policy**

To fulfill its mission of providing all members and ages of the community free access to a variety of informational materials, The Heermance Memorial Library provides access to Internet resources. In doing so, The Heermance Memorial Library does not monitor and has no control over the information accessed through the Internet and assumes responsibility only for the information provided on its home pages. The Internet offers access to many valuable local, national and international sources of information. However, some information found on the Internet is inaccurate, incomplete, dated, or offensive to some individuals and there are criminals who reach their victims via the Internet. A good information consumer must evaluate the validity and appropriateness of information found.

#### **Choosing and Evaluating Sources**

The Internet is a series of communication linkages leading to a highly diverse array of information content. Library patrons use it at their own risk. The Library does not monitor or control information accessible through the Internet and is not responsible for its content or for changes in content of the sources to which the Library home pages link, or for the content of sources accessed through secondary links.

#### **Access by Minors**

Parents or legal guardians must assume responsibility for deciding what library resources are appropriate for their own children. Responsibility for, and any restriction of, a child's use of the Internet rests solely with the child's parent(s) or legal guardian. The Heermance Memorial Library requires children and young adults under the age of 15 to have written parental permission to use the Internet. It is not possible for Library staff to control specific information people may locate on the Internet. Just as libraries do not vouch for or endorse the viewpoints of written material in their collections, they do not do so for electronic information.

**Parents should be aware that library staff cannot monitor whom their child is speaking with via the Internet.**

## **Rules Governing Use**

Due to the limited resources available for provision of public access to the Internet, the Library may set limits, for example, on use of large files of still or moving images or sound, or on downloading files in any medium. The Library also reserves the right to limit the amount of time an individual user can devote to a single session. Users may not:

- Use the network to make unauthorized entry into other computational, informational or communication services or resources.
- Distribute unsolicited advertising.
- Invade the privacy of others.
- Make any attempt to damage computer equipment or software.
- Engage in any activity that is harassing or defamatory.
- Use the Internet for any illegal activity, *including but not limited to* violation of copyright or other rights of third parties, or in a manner inconsistent with the **Patron Code of Conduct**
- Display obscene images on the computer screens

Violations may result in loss of access. Unlawful activities will be dealt with in an appropriate manner.

## **Public Users' Security**

Users should be aware that the Internet is not a secure medium and that third parties may be able to obtain information regarding users' activities. However, the Library will not release information on the use of specific Internet resources by members of the public except as required by law or necessary for the proper operation of the Library.

## **Compliance**

The Library reserves the right to take appropriate action to insure compliance with this policy.

This policy may be revised from time to time.

**Adopted by the Board of Trustees of the Heermance Memorial Library January 15, 2002**

**Revised by the Board of Trustees of the Heermance Memorial Library February 14, 2006**

**Revised by the Board of Trustees of the Heermance Memorial Library February 20, 2014**

**Revised by the Board of Trustees of the Heermance Memorial Library January 21, 2016**

**Reviewed by the Board of Trustees of the Heermance Memorial Library December 21, 2022**

**Heermance Memorial Library**  
**1 Ely Street**  
**Coxsackie, NY 12051**

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**Parental Permission Agreement**

- As the parent or legal guardian, I have read and agree to the Internet policy of the Heermance Memorial Library.
- I understand that some material on the Internet may be offensive and that there are predators who attempt to contact minors through chat rooms; but I accept the responsibility and agree to allow my child, who is between the ages eight and fifteen to use the Internet independently.
- I agree to accompany my child under eight or allow him/her to use the Internet with the adult who accompanies him/her to the library
- As parent or guardian I expressly assume all responsibility for the use of the Internet by my child and agree to hold Heermance Memorial Library harmless from any and all liability that may occur from the use.