

Access to Computers, Internet and WiFi in Council Libraries Policy

Community Services - Library Services

COMM_01

Purpose

The objective of this policy is to ensure equitable and safe access for all users of the Whitsunday Regional Libraries computer and internet facilities.

Scope

This policy applies to all customers of Whitsunday Regional Council libraries.

Policy Statement

- 1.1 To access the Whitsunday Regional Libraries computer and internet facilities the terms of this Policy must be strictly observed.

Prohibited uses of computer and internet facilities

- 2.1 Internet terminals and internet access, including WiFi access, are not to be used for illegal or fraudulent activities. Unlawful or unacceptable activities include but are not limited to:
 - 2.1. accessing or downloading pornographic or offensive material.
 - 2.2. sending or forwarding abusive, racist, sexist, pornographic, offensive or illegal material.
 - 2.3. engaging in illegal or fraudulent activities that contravene Federal or State laws and regulations.
 - 2.4. bittorrenting or illegal downloading of content including, but not limited to, movies, television shows and games.
 - 2.5. accessing the computer or internet facilities using another library user's library account details.
 - 2.6. accessing and using online game servers such as Steam or Origin.
 - 2.7. violation of privacy, including unauthorised monitoring of electronic communications.
 - 2.8. violation or attempted violation of any computer network's security system.
 - 2.9. unauthorised copying of copyright-protected material or intentional infringement of licence agreements and other contracts; and
- 2.10 theft, destruction of, or damage to, or interference with equipment, software, or data belonging to the Whitsunday Regional Library Service.

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Display of offensive or objectionable material

- 3.1 Users of the Whitsunday Regional Libraries computer and internet facilities are required to be mindful of the needs and sensitivities of other users.
- 3.2 Displaying material that is offensive or objectionable to other members of the public, such as pornography or expressions of racial hatred, is unacceptable.
- 3.3 Any user of the Whitsunday Regional Libraries computer or internet facilities who fails to heed an initial request by Library staff to cease displaying material deemed offensive or objectionable by Council employees will be issued with a demand to comply or leave the premises.
- 3.4 Any user who repeatedly displays offensive or objectionable material will be denied use of the Whitsunday Regional Libraries computer and internet facilities and served with an infringement notice or fine.

Abuse of computer or internet facilities

- 4.1 Any user who abuses protocols for allocating computer and internet facilities may have access to facilities restricted or withdrawn.
- 4.2 A maximum of two users may access any one terminal during their allocated time.
- 4.3 Any user who Council employees deem to be unreasonably utilising the internet facilities, such as using an unreasonable amount of bandwidth, may have access to the internet facilities restricted or withdrawn.

Risks applying to the use of the Whitsunday Regional Libraries internet connection

- 5.2 Whitsunday Regional Libraries cannot guarantee connectivity to the internet, nor the accuracy or validity of information accessed through the internet.
- 5.3 Whitsunday Regional Libraries cannot guarantee the security of data accessed or transmitted through its internet connection.
- 5.4 Whitsunday Regional Libraries does not police or monitor interactions over its internet connection. Users are advised to exercise due care in disclosing personal information over the internet.
- 5.5 Whitsunday Regional Libraries does not accept any liability for any loss or damage, direct or indirect that may arise from using its internet connection.

Children

- 5.1 Whitsunday Regional Libraries accepts no responsibility for the supervision of minors' use of its computer facilities.
- 6.2 Adults responsible for minors must exert their own safeguards and controls over the minors use of the computer and internet facilities.
- 6.1 Written permission for minors to access Whitsunday Regional Libraries computer or internet facilities must be provided when joining the Library. A parent, guardian or co-parental signature on the Whitsunday Regional Libraries Junior Application form confirms acknowledgement of Conditions of Use and Infringement of Security terms.

Censorship

- 7.1 Whitsunday Regional Libraries acknowledges the Australian Library and Information Association's (ALIA) statement on online content regulation for the promotion of "the free flow of

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information and ideas in the interest of all Australians and a thriving culture, economy and democracy". Whitsunday Regional Libraries does not filter or otherwise censor or control content retrieved through its internet connection.

Provision of assistance

- 8.1 Library staff can provide basic assistance in relation to computer and internet facilities. Basic assistance constitutes direction to computer facilities and familiarity with the resource which includes logging on and printing.

Applicable Legislation

Local Government Act 2009

Libraries Act 1988

Whitsunday Regional Council Local Law No. 4 (Local Government Controlled Areas, Facilities and Roads) 2019

Whitsunday Regional Council Subordinate Local Law No. 4 (Local Government Controlled Areas, Facilities and Roads) 2019

Definitions

CEO refers to the Chief Executive Officer of the Whitsunday Regional Council appointed in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2009*.

Council refers to the Whitsunday Regional Council

Employee refers to any employee, contractor, volunteer etc. of the Council

Computer facilities refers to library catalogues, linked electronic resources, Microsoft packages, internet and WiFi.

Internet/Internet facilities refers to WiFi facilities.

Material refers to any data, information, text, graphics, animations, speech, videos, music or other sounds accessible electronically including any combination or selection of any of these.

Minor refers to anyone under the age of 18 years old.

Related Documents

Library Visitor Conditions of Entry Policy

State Library of Queensland Service Level Agreement for Public Library Service Provision

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Human Rights Compatibility Statement

This Policy has been assessed as compatible with the Human Rights protected under the *Human Rights Act 2019*.

COUNCIL POLICY			
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