

Internet Safety & Computer Use Policy

The Library offers access to the Internet through workstations and wireless service throughout the building.

The Library does not control, and is not responsible for, the content, accuracy, or availability of information on the Internet. The provision of access does not mean to imply that the Library endorses or sanctions the content or point of view of any of the information or commentary which may be found on the Internet. Furthermore, because access points on the Internet change, the Library cannot protect individuals from information and images which they might find offensive or disturbing. The Library assumes no responsibility for damages of any type arising from the use of any information, software, or data obtained from the Internet. In addition, the Library is not and cannot be responsible for maintaining the privacy or confidentiality of personal or personally identifiable information provided by a user to a third party via the Internet.

Use of the Library's Internet services serves as agreement to comply with the terms outlined in this policy. Library staff reserves the right to terminate any Internet or computer session, including wireless Internet sessions, at any time. Computer, Internet, and/or library privileges may be suspended for misuse, abuse, or illegal use of the Internet or library computers, or because of other violations of this policy.

Time Management & Printing

The Library employs time management software on publicly accessible workstations. Patrons using the public workstations are allotted a timed session. Patrons may request a new session as long as others are not waiting. Printing is available via the library's workstations or wireless service; fees for printing are posted at the Library.

Filtered Content

It is the policy of the Library to uphold the rights of all users to access constitutionally-protected speech and information in a wide range of formats, including that available over the Internet. However, in compliance with the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) [Pub. L. No. 106-554 and 47 USC 254(h)], and in order to receive certain federal funds, the Library will implement technology protection measures (Internet filtering) for all Internet-accessible computers and other electronic devices using the Internet service provided by or through the Library. These measures serve, to the extent practicable, to:

- a) protect against access by staff and patrons, both minors and adults, to visual depictions that are obscene, child pornography, or harmful to minors as defined by federal law
- b) promote the safety and security of all Internet users, including minors, when using electronic mail, chat rooms, and other forms of direct electronic communication
- c) guard against unauthorized disclosure, use, and dissemination of personal information regarding all Internet users, including minors
- d) prevent unauthorized online access to the computer networks of the Library and others, including so-called "hacking," and any other unlawful activities by all Internet users, including minors

The Internet filters implemented by the Library are intended to protect against access to visual depictions of obscenity, child pornography, and, in the case of persons under the age of 18 years,

materials that are "harmful to minors," as defined by federal law. Please note that filtering technology results in some degree of both under-blocking (permitting access to material that falls within the aforementioned categories) and over-blocking (denying access to constitutionally-protected material that does not fall within the aforementioned categories). The Library cannot and does not guarantee that the filters will successfully block all and only material falling within the aforementioned categories. In order to help address the problem of over- and under-blocking and to enhance access to constitutionally protected speech and information, both adults and minors are encouraged to speak to a staff member concerning any incorrectly blocked site. Any Internet user who is 18 years of age or older may ask staff to disable the filter in order to obtain access to blocked sites for bona fide research or any other lawful purpose.

Unauthorized Network & Computer Usage

Unauthorized access to the Library's computers, databases, network, hardware, or software settings is prohibited.

As required by CIPA, prevention of inappropriate Internet use includes: (a) unauthorized access, including so-called 'hacking,' and other unlawful activities; (b) unauthorized disclosure, use, and dissemination of personal identification information regarding minors; and (c) dissemination and viewing of obscene visual depictions, child pornography, and/or other materials harmful to minors.

Patrons must comply with applicable copyright laws and licensing agreements.

Patrons may not use Library's Internet to transmit threatening or harassing material or engage in any activity that is deliberately offensive or creates an intimidating or hostile environment.

Patrons may not damage, alter, or degrade computer equipment, peripherals, software, or operating configurations. Installation of software applications or directly accessing or altering computer hard drive files is not permitted without prior authorization from staff.

Use By Minors

Access to the Library's public computers and the Internet is made available to patrons of all ages. Library staff assume all unoccupied minors in compliance with the [Child Safety Policy](#) have full access to all materials in the Library, including the public computers and Internet. Library staff do not serve in the place of parents or caregivers and do not provide supervision of minors as they explore the Internet. The responsibility for what minors read or view on the Internet rests solely with parents and/or caregivers.

Modified by the Board of Trustees, November 14, 2023 (pending public comments scheduled for 11/18)

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