

Computer and Internet Access Policy

Purpose

As part of our mission to meet the information needs of our community, the library offers free internet access to the general public. This policy describes the rights and responsibilities of both the library and its patrons in providing access to and using the internet.

Library Responsibilities

- The library will provide access to the internet through public use terminals and an open wireless network.
- The library will provide computers with an extended use period for banking, job applications, genealogy research, and other in-depth research.
- The library uses Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) compliant filtering software to block pornographic content and other sites that pose a threat to the network.
- The library will make a good faith effort to protect the privacy of internet users by not storing passwords, browsing history, or downloaded materials on public use terminals and not keeping information about computer sessions beyond a 24-hour period.
- The library will set rules for public use terminals regarding session time limits, session order, etc. in order to provide fair and equal access to all users.
- Library staff will assist patrons with computer use as time permits, but cannot guarantee on-demand personal instruction on computer use.
- This policy will be posted at the Business Center desk and made available on the library's website.
- The library board, library employees, and local government are not liable for any damages resulting from an individual's use of the library's network.
- In accordance with the First Amendment, Arkansas Code 13-2-701, and American Library Association policy, the library does not disclose information to any third party about a patron's computer access or use without a properly executed court order. A detailed explanation of cardholder rights and library responsibilities regarding privacy can be found in the Patron Confidentiality Policy.

Patron Responsibilities

- Patrons under the age of 13 are not permitted in the adult computing area. Patrons over the age of 13 are not permitted in the children's computing area unless accompanying a child under the age of 13. Only patrons ages 13-17 are permitted in the teen computing area.
- Patrons are encouraged to use their library cards to log in to the public use terminals. If a patron 13 years of age or older does not have a library card and would like to use a public use terminal, the library will provide a visitor's pass, which can be obtained from a service desk. If a child under the age of 13 does not have their library card, a visitor's pass will be given only if library staff is given permission by the accompanying adult.
- Adult library users access the internet at their own discretion. The library cannot be held responsible for the vast array of information available on the internet and cannot protect people from content that is inaccurate, biased, or objectionable.

- Patrons acknowledge that the library cannot protect information sent to third parties through the internet, cannot retrieve user passwords, and cannot store downloaded materials.
- Those using the internet at the library are ultimately responsible for protecting their private data; patrons should use good judgment when accessing and posting personal information and should log out of any personal accounts before ending a computer session.
- Patrons understand that they are not allowed to install software on public use terminals.
- Patrons will recognize that they are using computers in a public space and agree to conduct themselves according to the Library's Code of Conduct.
- If an individual's internet use results in disruption of library services, or if a patron's behavior when using computer resources becomes inappropriate for a library setting, the library reserves the right to end the session and ask the patron to leave the computer area.
- Viewing visually obscene materials on the computer is considered inappropriate behavior. The library and its employees have the right to suspend an individual's internet access for such behavior.
 - The first offense will result in a one-month computer ban.
 - A second offense will result in a one-year computer ban.
 - A third offense will result in a permanent loss of computer and internet services.
- Those using the internet at the library agree to comply with all federal, state, and local laws, including (but not limited to):
 - Laws governing the viewing, transmission, or distribution of child pornography
 - Laws governing file sharing and copyright violations

Internet Access for Minors

- Though children are allowed to access the internet at the library, we do acknowledge that the internet does contain material that is inappropriate for viewing by children.
- Library staff cannot provide monitoring and supervision of children's use of the internet. As with other library materials, restriction of a child's access to the internet is ultimately the responsibility of the parent/legal guardian.

Adopted August 2001

Revised February 2023