

GENERAL INTERNET AND TECHNOLOGY USAGE POLICY

Introduction

- The Internet is a global electronic network of information. The Independence Public Library provides free, unsecured access to the Internet as one means of connecting the public to the world of ideas and information, believing that the benefits of access outweigh the potential disadvantages.
- The Internet and its available resources contain materials that may be inaccurate, controversial, and/or offensive. The library has no control over Internet content.
- Library disclaims any liability or responsibility arising from use of the Internet or information obtained through the Internet.

General Access

- Internet access is automatically granted to each library patron when acquiring a Library card.
- Use of the Library's wireless network or of a Library computer implies agreement with this Internet Usage Policy.
- Patrons must use their own Library card to access the Internet through the public access desktops and laptops.
- No library card or password is required for wireless access.
- Guests who do not have an Independence Public Library card may use a computer under a guest account if they are eligible for library services in Iowa, or if they have an ID showing a current out of state address. Frequent guests meeting library card guidelines are encouraged to obtain an Independence Public Library card.
- Computer use records are confidential. See the Confidentiality Policy for further information. Users should log out of all applications at the end of their session to ensure privacy.
- Staff may monitor and respond as needed when a violation of this policy or illegal activity is suspected.

Access for Minors

- Parents or guardians of minor children (age 17 or younger) shall assume responsibility for their children's use of the Internet through the library's connection...both public access computers and through personal devices on the library's wireless connection.
- The Library will not be responsible for enforcing any restrictions which a parent or guardian may place on a minor's use of this, or any, library resource.

Responsibilities of Users

- Users must have a valid Independence Public Library card in good standing.
- The Internet is not a private environment. The security of data, files, and devices is the responsibility of the patron.

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- Individuals must accept responsibility for evaluating the content of the resources they view, read, or listen to. Monitoring and restrictions of a child's access is the responsibility of the parent or guardian.
- Users must comply with all local, state and federal laws while using the Internet and Library computers. Users found to have violated any laws, including but not limited to privacy, obscenity, fraud or copyright, while using Library resources may have their Internet privileges revoked.
- Computer users must respect the rights and sensibilities of other library users. Refrain from sites which may reasonably be considered offensive or disturbing in a public setting shared by people of all ages.

Time Restriction

- Patrons are requested to use the library's public access computers and laptops for no more than one hour per day when others are waiting. If there are no other patrons waiting to use the service, users may continue to use the system for one additional hour (provided in three 20-minute segments).
- There is no time restriction when a patron is using his or her own device.

Use of Library-Owned Laptops/Devices available for Checkout

- Users must be a minimum of 12 years of age.
- Users check out devices at the circulation desk and must leave a photo ID or library card at the desk while they use the equipment.
- Laptops and devices are to be used in the library only and may not be taken out of the building.
- Once a laptop or device is checked out to a patron, the device becomes the responsibility of that person. Devices should not be left unattended. The borrowing patron is responsible for returning the equipment to the circulation desk.
- The borrower is responsible for replacement costs in the amount listed on the Fines and Fees Policy if the equipment is lost/stolen/damaged during his/her check-out period.

Disciplinary Guidelines

- Violators of this policy may lose computer privileges and/or library privileges. Illegal acts involving library computer resources also may be subject to prosecution. Please refer to the Behavior Policy to see more information.