

Internet Use Policy

The Southworth Library provides resources in a wide variety of formats to meet the cultural, informational, recreational, and educational needs of the diverse, multicultural community it serves. The Internet is an integral part of the resources available to assist library users in finding needed information.

Internet access by minors to inappropriate matter is currently restricted with the use of filtering software as per Child Internet Protection Act (CIPA) requirements. All computers are connected to the network to run this software. Every effort is made to ensure the safety and security of minors when using electronic mail, chat rooms, and other forms of direct electronic communications as well as unauthorized access including “hacking” and other unlawful activities, by preferentially using computers in a designated area with oversight and through camera security surveillance. Parents are also encouraged to supervise their children’s internet usage.

Adults may request to have the filtering software turned off for their computer session if needed for valid research or information. The front desk must be contacted in order to do so, if access is needed to sites that are being blocked by the filtering software.

Use of the Internet is also governed by the Library Code of Conduct Policy. The user may not use the Internet for any illegal activity or place any material on the Internet related to any illegal activity. It is the responsibility of the user to respect copyright laws and licensing agreements and assume responsibility for payment of fees for any fee-based service.

INTERNET ACCESS SERVICES RULES

1. Internet use must be consistent with the Library’s Rules of Conduct which have been adopted and are posted in the Library. All public computer users must sign the Internet Use policy form agreement which implies conformity to the requirements within it. Use of the Library’s Internet, computers, and services is a privilege, not a right.
2. Library patrons may use the Internet with their valid Library card or as a guest. Public computers are available on a first-come, first-served basis and must be signed out at the circulation desk.
3. Patrons 17 and under require a parental or guardian permission form on file with the Library to access the Internet and computers.
4. There is a 30 minute time limit on public computer stations. This can be extended if the user needs more time. Users must check in with the circulation desk if needed to extend their time. All computers are turned off 15 minutes prior to closing.
5. The library does not provide personal instruction or tutoring on the use of the computer or any of the software products. Some assistance may be available through volunteers or classes.
6. The Library reserves the right to limit the number of people at individual PCs.
7. The Library cannot be held responsible for loss of data or information created or used while using public computers.

8. Patrons may not tamper with, alter, edit, damage, or remove computer hardware, data, and/or software.
9. Access of pornography in any form is strictly prohibited and will result in the withdrawal of internet and computer privileges.
10. Unauthorized disclosure of, use of, or dissemination of personal information by means of the Internet, e-mail, or any electronic technology is prohibited.
11. Users must respect the privacy and sensibilities of others. Displaying or printing images of child pornography, or those which are sexually explicit, obscene, or harmful to minors is expressly prohibited according to the [N.Y. U.C.C. Penal § 235.00-235.24](#) (Consol. 2004).
12. The Internet, computers, and network services may not be used for illegal activities, including the harassment of others. Users may not misrepresent themselves when using the Internet.
13. Use of system resources (for example, bandwidth) that negatively affects others' ability to use these same resources is prohibited.
14. Headphones must be used when sound is disruptive to other users. Headphones are available for in-house library use at the front desk.
15. Any observed violations of these rules will result in loss of privileges at the library including possible denial of future library services or access to the library, for a time period from one day to one year or even permanently. Criminal or civil charges may result.
16. There is a \$.10 charge for each B&W page/side printed and a \$.25 charge for color pages/sides printed. Large quantities of printing are limited.

Internet Access Services via the Wireless Access Point

1. The WIFI network (LibraryPublic) is available in most parts of the library and does not require password login. Use of the Library's Internet access (both wired and wireless) constitutes acceptance of this Internet Use Policy.
2. The user is responsible for configuring equipment to access the Library's Internet Access Service.
3. The wireless signal may be lost at random and the library takes no responsibility for lost data or transmission errors.
4. The library is not responsible for stolen equipment, damage to personal equipment incurred during its use at the library, lost data due to network failure, or any harmful downloads on personal computer systems. Wireless access is insecure and data may be viewed by others on the wireless connection. Users are warned to be careful about transmitting personal information on an open network.
5. The library is not responsible for any damage to a user's personal computer by any viruses or harmful software which may occur during its use on the wireless network.
6. Due to the limited resources available for 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.

7. Users must comply with all applicable federal, state and local laws, including laws governing the transmission and dissemination of information while accessing the Internet, and with all Library policies and procedures
8. The library staff will not be available for any support of personal computers systems.

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