

Computer Use Policy

Portland Library

Public access to computers and the Internet are offered to Portland Library patrons of all ages in accord with the Library's Mission Statement to strive to meet the informational, educational, cultural, and recreational needs of the community and to provide appropriate technology resources for the purpose.

Users must register at the Information Desk each time they wish to use the public computers. First time users of library computers must read the Computer Use policy and sign a statement that they will comply with the policy. The policy shall be posted near the public computers.

The Library strives to protect the confidentiality of all users. However, it is beyond the Library's control to *provide for complete* privacy, due to the public nature of the library and the Internet.

Users are encouraged to seek assistance from librarians to find reliable Internet sources.

As the Internet is a global and unregulated information network, the Library cannot control the information accessible through the Internet and shall not be held liable for its content. Furthermore, all users who release personal information, including personal identifying information, credit card, or bank account numbers, etc. do so at their own risk.

Parents or guardians of children under 18 are responsible for their children's use of the Internet through the Library's connection. As with other library materials, a child's use of the Internet is solely the responsibility of the child's parent or guardian. *The Library shall not assume the right or responsibility to act as a parent.*

The Library provides computers located in the Children and Teen areas with filtered Internet access to prohibit access to adult content or graphic violence. The Library shall not be liable for any failure of filtering, or blocking software, to screen out Internet material that is obscene or harmful to minors. The Library shall not be held responsible for filtering being in a disabled condition.

Only age appropriate games for young children may be played on the computers in the children's area (i.e. games rated G or PG or the equivalent).

Individuals wishing to access material online or play games online that are not acceptable for younger children may do so on devices or computers outside of the children's area.

Unless allowed by a library staff member, Internet users may not install nor download software programs onto the Library computer's hard drive.

Users shall not attempt to violate the computer security systems nor attempt to access the hard drive, other files, networks or computer systems of the Library, nor tamper with the computer hardware.

Illegal acts involving Library computing resources, including transmitting or publicly accessing materials harmful to minors and copyright violations, shall be subject to prosecution by local, state or federal authorities.

The Library's computer workstations are in public areas and are shared by patrons of all ages. Therefore, all patrons are asked to refrain from displaying potentially offensive images or from broadcasting sounds that interfere with the civil atmosphere and workplace environment of the library. While using library computers patrons are expected to refrain from audibly using violent or sexual language in accord with the Library behavior policy.

Individuals using the Library's wireless communications service to access the Internet are subject to this computer use policy regarding Internet use.

The Library Director, or designee, reserves the right to limit the amount of time a user may use the computers and/or Internet access including wireless access.

Procedural rules regarding use of the computers shall be posted near the computers and available at the Information Desk.

Computer privileges will be suspended or revoked if, in the opinion of the Library Director or a designee, use and/or behavior are not in accordance with this policy.

Approved by the Portland Library Board of Directors November 21, 2019
Portland, CT