

CATEGORY:	EXTERNAL
TITLE:	Computer Usage, Internet and Wireless Access Policy
FIRST ADOPTED:	December 1997
REVISED and ACCEPTED:	May 3, 2018
EFFECTIVE as of:	September 26, 2024
APPLICATION:	Patrons
RESPONSIBILITY:	Director and staff

Computer Usage, Internet and Wireless Access Policy

Introduction

As part of its mission, the Kirkland Town Library (the Library) provides access to resources in a wide variety of formats and offers computers, printing, and wireless access to the internet. The Library complies with all applicable policies and laws including the Children’s Internet Protection Act [Pub. L. No. 106-554 and 47 USC 254(h)].

The Library is neither responsible nor liable for the content on the internet nor the accuracy, currency or completeness of the information accessed. Information accessed via the Library's computers does not constitute the Library’s endorsement of the information.

The Library is not responsible for laptops, tablets or other devices left unattended.

It is the responsibility of the user to exit all programs used, log out of any accounts they may have signed into, and display the original screen. The Library assumes no responsibility for costs, liabilities, claims, loss of data, service interruptions or damages arising from the use of digital information resources.

All users, by virtue of their use of Library Internet access, agree to this policy and the Rules of Conduct for Library Patrons.

Parental/Guardian Responsibility

Supervision of a minor’s use of library resources and determining what actions are appropriate for that minor is solely the responsibility of the parent/guardian. Library staff cannot monitor minors as they explore the information resources available electronically in the Library.

Privacy

Due to the locations and configurations of the public computers and printers, and the public nature of accessing the internet in the Library, patrons should not expect privacy. There is no privacy of materials printed onsite. Data from a patron's session is not saved once the patron logs off.

Restricted/Illegal Activity

Library patrons are expected to comply with all local, state and federal laws while using the internet. Library policies on the proper use of materials also apply to electronic resources.

Restricted or illegal activities include but are not limited to:

- Accessing obscene material, as defined by state and federal law.
- Damaging computer equipment or software; degradation of system performance.
- Alteration or destruction of software configurations.
- Violation of Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S. Code) or software licensing agreements.
- Engaging in activities which may incur costs to the Library.
- Using personal software programs on Library computers.
- The Library's computer equipment may not be used to harass, disrupt, or embarrass other users, library staff, or the public.

It is illegal in New York State to display pornographic images or obscene materials in the Library, or to disseminate such materials to minors through computer communication systems.

Copying or distribution of certain material found on the Internet may infringe on copyright or other intellectual property rights. The Library is not responsible for such infringements.

Access/Printing Limits

The Library reserves the right to enforce a time limit per session and limit the amount of printing. The Board of Trustees may adjust the charge for printing at any time.

Filtering

As a member of the Mid York Library system, which is subject to federal laws including the Children's Internet Protection Act, the Internet services available through the Library are configured to filter malicious and illegal content on all computers. If you believe information you are trying to access has been blocked in error, please see a staff member. Sole discretion for review and filtering decisions lies with the Director.

Staff Assistance

The Library's staff may be available to provide patrons limited assistance in basic computer and internet use as time permits, but may not be able to offer in-depth assistance nor provide extensive personal instruction. If Library staff is asked to provide assistance for patrons using

their own equipment such as tablets, or mobile devices, it is with the understanding that Library staff will work only under patron direction. Neither the Library nor its staff can be held liable if the patron's equipment is damaged or altered.

Wireless Access

The Library's public wireless network is open to anyone, though it is not a secure network and use of the network is entirely at the risk of the user.

The Library assumes no responsibility for the safety of equipment, configurations, security, or data files resulting from trying to connect to the Library's network. Furthermore, the Library makes no guarantees as to the compatibility of a patron's wireless equipment either with the Library's wireless network, or as to reliability or security of connections to the network or to the internet.

The Library will not be responsible for any information that is compromised or for any damage caused to hardware or software due to electrical surges, security issues or consequences caused by viruses or hacking.

Response to Violations

Failure to comply with Library policies and regulations governing computer internet access may result in termination of Internet access privileges and suspension of Library privileges. Unlawful activities will be dealt with appropriately through local law enforcement agencies.