

Greeneville-Greene County Public Library Internet Access Policy

Internet Access

The library provides access to the internet through networked public computers and a wireless connection supporting personal digital devices.

Users of the public computers access library services by registering with a current Greeneville-Greene County Public Library card or an appropriate identification, such as a driver's license or state ID card, that provides a photograph. Users of the library's public computers must have accounts in good standing (that is, must not owe money to the library), or computer access will be denied. Users may not use the identification of family members or anyone else to access public computers. Two or more users may share a single access session provided all have accounts in good standing and provided their behavior and conversation do not disturb other library patrons.

Registration records are destroyed at the end of each business day.

Due to high demand, users must comply with time constraints set by the library in order to ensure fair access to all users. Computer sessions are pre-set for one hour, and patrons may request additional time. Generally, such requests will be granted, provided no more than one additional hour is requested and provided granting the requests does not prevent other users from having access. In rare instances--for example, involving instructional or testing materials--requests for more than two hours may be honored.

The internet offers access to a wealth of information that can be personally, professionally, and culturally enriching. However, the United States Congress and the courts have recognized that there is no single organization to govern, control, or select information for the internet. Along with valuable information, the internet also contains information which may be inaccurate, outdated, controversial, or offensive. Information access points may change rapidly and unpredictably. Due to the constantly changing and expanding nature of technology, library staff may not be familiar with every aspect of the internet, electronic devices, and software programs.

The library is not responsible for the content of the internet, as the library has no control over this vast array of information. The library specifically disclaims any warrant as to the information's accuracy, timeliness, authoritativeness, usefulness, or fitness for a particular purpose. The library accepts no liability for direct, indirect, or consequential damages related to the use of information accessed through its internet service.

The library does not monitor users' internet sessions, except for length of time in order to ensure equal

opportunity of access for everyone. The library does not maintain records of patron internet use. The library makes a good faith effort to purge all patron originated information left on library computers. However, information transmitted and received on the library's public computers is by no means guaranteed to be protected from interception by other parties inside or outside the library. Users are cautioned that library computers are located in public areas where computer screens are visible to others, so they cannot be considered private. The user, or the parent/guardian of a minor user, is responsible for his or her internet session at all times. Library staff reserve the right to ensure compliance with this internet policy.

Technology Protection Measures

The library uses filtering software or other technology protection measures on all library computers with internet access in compliance with the Children's Internet Protection Act of 2000. Filters are required to prevent minors from accessing visual depictions that are obscene, that constitute child pornography, or that are in other ways harmful to minors. The term "harmful to minors" is defined by the Communications Act of 1934 (47 USC Section 254 [h] [7]) as meaning any picture, image, graphic image file, or other visual depiction that:

- taken as a whole and with respect to minors, appeals to a prurient interest in nudity, sex, or excretion;
- depicts, describes, or represents, in a patently offensive way with respect to what is suitable for minors, an actual or simulated sexual act or sexual contact, actual or simulated normal or perverted sexual acts, or a lewd exhibition of the genitals;
- taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value as to minors.

The library makes no claim that its filtering software or any filtering software is foolproof.

Filtering software diminishes the likelihood that users will inadvertently retrieve text or images that they may find offensive, but it does not eliminate that possibility. In addition, filters may block sites that users consider both inoffensive and useful. Users aged 18 and older may ask a library staff member to disable filters for *bona fide* research or other lawful purpose.

The library accepts no liability for damages related to the operation of, or failure of, its filtering software, or for its circumvention by users.

Internet Safety/Child Safety on the Internet

Parents/guardians, not the library or its staff, are responsible for internet information accessed by children under the age of 18. Parents/guardians should be aware that the only way to monitor their children's internet use is for them (the adults) to be present at the computer. Parents/guardians are reminded that filtering software is not foolproof.

Library internet users, especially children, should use caution in their use of electronic mail, chat rooms, and other forms of direct electronic communications, as these forms of communication can expose them to dangerous situations. Minors should never disclose personal information such as name, address, school, or telephone number to strangers on the internet, and they should not agree to meet people they have communicated with on the internet without the permission of a parent or guardian.

User Responsibilities

All users of the internet at the library are expected to use this resource in a responsible and ethical manner, consistent with the library's educational and informational purposes, and to follow all internet related rules, regulations, and procedures established for its use including, but not limited to, those of the library.

Responsible use of the internet at the library includes:

- Complying with the library's posted Code of Conduct
- Using the library's computers for library designated purposes only
- Not abusing or misusing library computers or any other equipment; changes are not allowed to the setup or configuration of the software or hardware
- Respecting intellectual property rights by making only authorized copies of copyrighted or licensed software or data residing on the internet
- Respecting the privacy of others by not misrepresenting oneself as another user; by not attempting to modify or gain access to files, passwords, or data belonging to others; and by not seeking disallowed access to any computer system via the internet
- Not using someone else's library account to access the internet
- Not altering or damaging software or data residing on the internet
- Not deliberately creating or spreading computer malware
- Not compromising the safety of minors through the use of e-mail, chat rooms, or other forms of direct electronic communication
- Not accessing material that is inappropriate for display in a public setting
- Respecting the sensibilities of others when accessing potentially offensive information and images
- Refraining from illegal or unethical use of the internet, including the viewing of any material which depicts nudity, sexual contact, or excess violence, or which is harmful to minors per the Tennessee Code Annotated 39-17-911.

The library is not responsible for damage to users' storage medium or electronic devices or for any loss of data, damage, or liability that may occur from use of the library's computers.

The library provides free, unsecured wireless internet access for public use. The library does not provide technical support for privately owned personal electronic devices. Security for personal wireless devices rests solely with the owner of the wireless device. Applicable portions of the User Responsibilities set

forth above (particularly the last four items) govern all personal use of the library's public wireless access.

Response to Violations

Users' access to the library's computer network and internet is a privilege, not a right. The library reserves the right to terminate an internet session that disrupts library services or that involves user behavior that violates this or any other library policy. Failure to comply with library policies may result in the temporary or permanent forfeiture of the user's privilege to access these computers or to use the library.

Procedures

The library staff will develop such supporting rules and procedures as are necessary to ensure the fair and reasonable use of library internet access. This Internet Access Policy and a "Guide to Internet and Computer Use" will be available to users in the library and on the library's internet site.

Review and Revision of this Internet Access Policy

This Internet Access Policy, including any attachments, will be reviewed periodically, approximately every three years, by the library staff and the library board. It may be revised only with the formal approval of the board.