Internet Use Policy and Guidelines

(Adopted by the Abilene Public Library Advisory Board, November 13, 2017)

Internet access is made available to offer a program of informational, educational, recreational, and cultural enrichment opportunities for patrons of all ages and backgrounds in the Abilene area.

The Library assumes responsibility only for the information provided on its home page and Website. Sites external to the library are not monitored for content. The Library is not responsible for changes in the content of the sources to which patrons' link, nor for the contents of sources accessed through secondary links. The Library neither monitors nor controls information accessible through the Internet and does not accept responsibility for its content. While most of the information accessed can be valuable and enlightening, the user may also find materials that are controversial, unreliable, personally offensive, or illegal under U.S. law.

The Library does employ software filtering on Internet accessible workstations. This filtering is provided via the City of Abilene Information Technology department and cannot be accessed or adjusted by Library personnel.

Rules Governing Use

General Use (applies to all patrons)

1. Internet access is granted to patrons with a valid Library card number with accounts that are current and in good standing.

2. Card holding users are allowed up to three logins a day and users may use a computer for up to an hour on standard computers and twenty minutes on express computers.

3. Use of the Internet access workstations is on a first-come, first-served basis. If not one is waiting at the end of their session, the patron may use another login to continue on that computer. The computers will automatically log off 15 minutes prior to closing of the library.

4. Downloading of files may be done on USB drives that are provided by user. The Library is not responsible for damage to patrons' drives or computers, or for any loss of data, damage, or liability that may occur due to a computer virus contracted from patron use of the Library's Internet services. Additionally, the patron is responsible for removing all personal information from the computer such as logging out of personal accounts and removing downloaded files. The Library is not liable for any private information that is made public due to users' failure to follow necessary steps.

5. Patron may not load software of any kind onto Library-owned equipment.

Use by Minors (under age 18)

1. Minors may gain access with parents' permission, which can be given on the card registration form.

2. Parents of minor children are responsible for their children's use of the Internet. The Library does not have the right or responsibility to act in place of a parent.

3. All workstations have filtering software installed in an attempt to ensure that obscene, and possibly illegal materials, are not made available to minors at the library. However, such software has a variable rate of effectiveness in screening age-inappropriate.

User Responsibilities

Legal usage

Computing resources may not be used for any illegal purposes. Examples of illegal use include, but are not limited to, the following:
- Attempting to alter or damage computer equipment, software configurations, or files belonging to the City of Abilene, Abilene Public Library, or the Abilene Library Consortium, other users, or external networks.
- Attempting unauthorized entry to the City of Abilene's computer network or external networks.
- Engaging in activity which is deliberately and maliciously offensive, libelous, and slanderous or harassing to others.
- Transmission or viewing of child pornography or obscene material.
- Intentional propagation of computer viruses.
- Violation of copyright or communication laws. *U.S. copyright law (title 17. U.S. Code)* prohibits the unauthorized reproduction or distribution of copyrighted materials, except as permitted by the principals of "fair use." Any responsibility for any consequences of copyright infringement lies with the user. The Library expressly disclaims any liability or responsibility for such use.

Computer Etiquette

Computing resources must be used in accordance with the rules of the Abilene Public Library. Examples of unacceptable use include, but are not limited to, the following:
- Hacking (breaking into or out of any system) and violation of computer systems security.
- Use of computer communications facilities in ways that interfere with, or impede computer use by others.
- Intentional violation of another customer's privacy.
- Obtrusively displaying information with the intent of being disruptive or offensive to others.

Sanctions
1. Violations of the rules described above will result in the user having Library computer privileges suspended for ninety (90) days. A second occurrence will result in loss of computer privileges for one year.
2. Illegal acts involving Library computing resources, in addition to the sanctions listed above may also be subject to prosecution by local, state, or federal authorities.
3. Users are financially liable for any damage caused by either directly or indirectly to any Abilene Public Library equipment or software.
4. The Library reserves the right to terminate a patron's Internet/computer session at any time Library staff deems the use to be in conflict with the Library Internet Use Policy.