

Knox Public Library

Acceptable Use (Wired & Wi-Fi) Policy

Purpose:

The Knox Public Library is providing access to the Internet to enhance the information and learning opportunities for the patrons of the library's service area. The Knox Public Library has established the Acceptable Use Policy to ensure appropriate and effective use of this resource.

Access to the Internet is available to all patrons via free Wi-Fi or the use of library computers; however, this service may be restricted at any time for the use not consistent with the guidelines. Parents of minor children must assume responsibility for their children's use of the library's Internet service. All users must sign in prior to beginning their session.

Expectations:

Patrons should be aware that the inappropriate use of electronic information resources can be a violation of local, state, and federal laws and can lead to prosecution. The user will be held responsible for his/her actions using the Internet. Patrons are expected to abide by the policies below which include generally accepted rules of network etiquette. Library staff will intervene if patron behavior is inappropriate, or material on display is disruptive or illegal. Unacceptable uses of the service will result in the suspension or revocation of Internet use privileges.

It is the policy of the Knox Public Library to: (a) prevent user access over its computer network to, or transmission of, inappropriate material via Internet, electronic mail, or other forms of direct electronic communications; (b) prevent unauthorized access and other unlawful online activity; (c) prevent unauthorized online disclosure, use, or dissemination of personal identification information of minors; and (d) comply with the Children's Internet Protection Act [Pub. L. No. 106-554 and 47 USC 254(h)].

Specifically, as required by the Children's Internet Protection Act, prevention of inappropriate network usage includes: (a) unauthorized access, including so-called "hacking", and other unlawful activities; and (b) unauthorized disclosure, use, and dissemination of personal identification information regarding minors.

To the extent practical, steps shall be taken to promote the safety and security of users of the online computer network when using electronic mail, chat rooms, instant messaging, and other forms of direct electronic communications.

It shall be the responsibility of all staff members to educate, supervise, and monitor appropriate usage of the online computer network and access to the Internet in accordance with this policy, the Children's Internet Protection Act, the Neighborhood Children's Internet Protection Act, and the Protecting Children in the 21st Century Act.

Warnings:

The Internet is a decentralized, unmoderated global network; the Knox Public Library is not responsible for the availability of information found on the Internet.

The Library cannot assure the data or files downloaded by users are virus-free. The Library is not responsible for damages to equipment or data on a user's personal device from the use of data downloaded from the Library's Internet service.

The use of the Internet and e-mail is not guaranteed to be private. Messages relating to or in support of illegal activities will be reported to the proper authorities.

To the extent practical, technology protection measures (or "Internet filters") shall be used to block or filter Internet, or other forms of electronic communications, access to inappropriate information. Specifically, as required by the Children's Internet Protection Act, blocking shall be applied to visual depictions of material deemed obscene or child pornography, or to any material deemed harmful to minors.

Guidelines:

- Patrons may use the Internet for research and the acquisition of information to address their educational, vocational, cultural, and recreational needs.
- Subject to staff supervision, technology protection measures may be disabled for adults or, in the case of minors, minimized only for bona fide research or other lawful purposes.
- Patrons may use the Internet for the receipt and transmission of electronic mail (e-mail) as long as they use an e-mail service, which will establish and maintain an account for them; the Library is unable to manage e-mail accounts for any organization or individuals.
- Internet use is offered on a first-come, first-served basis for the use of library computers. Computer sessions are given in 1-hour increments. Sessions may be ended by library staff after 1-hour sessions at times of high patron volume. Wi-Fi is available to all patrons and there is no enforced time limit.
- Users will respect and uphold copyright laws and all other applicable laws and regulations; they will not use the Internet for illegal purposes.
- Users will respect the rights and privacy of others by not accessing private files.
- Users agree not to incur any costs for the library using the Internet service.
- Users may not download hardware or software unless given explicit approval by a library staff member.
- Users shall not create and/or distribute computer viruses over the Internet.
- Users shall not deliberately or willfully cause damage to computer equipment, programs, or parameters.

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