HCL Internet and Computer Use Policy

Internet Use - Library Rules

The Harrisburg Community Library expects patrons to use the Internet responsibly, respecting others' rights and library rules of behavior. Internet computers are in public areas used by library patrons of all ages, backgrounds, sensitivities, and values. Individuals are expected to consider this when accessing potentially controversial information and images. The library does not condone the use of library equipment to access material that is obscene, features pornography, or is harmful to minors. The use of the Internet is a privilege, not a right, and unacceptable use can result in suspension or cancellation of the privilege.

All users are expected to use the resources in a responsible, ethical manner, which includes (but is not limited to), the following:

- Using the resources for educational, informational and recreational purposes only, not for unauthorized, illegal or unethical purposes.
- Respecting the privacy of others, by not attempting to modify or gain access to files, passwords, or data belonging to others, by not seeking unauthorized access to any computer system, or damaging or altering software components of any network or database.
- Making only authorized copies of copyrighted or licensed software or data.
- Not sending, receiving, or displaying text or graphics, which may be reasonably be construed as offensive or inappropriate.

Users may not engage in actions that include, but are not limited to:

- Destroying, altering, preventing, or interfering with the configuration of the library computers.
- Violating copyright or software license agreements.
- Ignoring time, printing, and workstation occupancy limits.
- Invading or violating another patron's privacy.
- Sending, receiving, printing, or displaying text or graphics that may reasonably be construed as obscene or pornographic.
- Viewing any site that may create a disruptive environment for other library users or staff.
- Engaging in any activity that is deliberately offensive or creates an intimidating or hostile environment.
- Misrepresenting oneself, by access code, password, or signature.
- Any illegal, criminal, or unethical purposes.

Noncompliance with this policy may result in revocation of computer privileges and/or library use privileges.

Unlawful activities can be referred to the appropriate legal authority to handle.

Use of the library's computers constitutes acceptance of the Policy.

Updated by Board on March 13, 2025

Computer Sign-In and Time Limits

Patrons must sign in at the front desk to use the computers. Computer use is limited to 1 hour per patron; if there is a wait for the computers, the time limit is 30 minutes. The sign-in sheets are shredded when no longer needed.

Minors and Parental Responsibility

 Minors aged 11 to 17 must have a parent or guardian's written consent before they are allowed unaccompanied use of library computers. Children 10 years of age and younger must be accompanied by a parent or guardian in order to use the library computers. Filtering software is in place to prevent access to sites considered obscene or harmful to minors, but filtering software is not infallible. By allowing access, the parent or guardian of the minor user agrees to be held responsible for any violations committed by the user, accepts that the library staff does not and cannot ensure that the information available on the Internet is appropriate for minors, and agrees to be solely responsible for monitoring and controlling the minor user's access to material. It is the parent or guardian's responsibility to determine what is appropriate for their child's age and maturity level.

Damages

The Harrisburg Community Library is not responsible for any damages, direct or indirect, or for any liability that may arise from a patron's use of the library's Internet services or information obtained through the Internet. Internet users should be aware that the Internet is not a secure medium. It is possible for third parties to obtain information regarding an individual user's search activities. Users should be very cautious about providing personal information over the internet.

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