

Internet Access and Safety Policy

Approved by the Lawrence Public Library Board of Trustees, September 20, 1999.
Revised September 21, 2000; August 15, 2001; September 16, 2002; November 18, 2002; November 15, 2004; November 21, 2005; January 20, 2009; October 13, 2015; October 15, 2018; and February 15, 2021.

General Statement on Internet Access

Lawrence Public Library (Library) provides public access to the Internet in support of its [mission](#) and to affirm its commitment to the principles of intellectual freedom as expressed in the [Library Bill of Rights](#). Public access to the Internet is a fundamental service of the Library and is provided equally to all patrons.

Patron Responsibility

Patrons who use the Library's computers or wireless network to access the Internet will respect the privacy of other users, abide by United States and Kansas laws, particularly those ensuring the safety of minors, and follow the policies of the Library.

Parents and guardians, not Library staff, are responsible for Internet use by their own minor children, including those who visit the Library without a parent or guardian. Children age 9 and under must be accompanied by an adult.

Use of the Library's computers or wireless network to access the Internet constitutes agreement with this policy.

Unacceptable use includes, but is not limited to:

- Accessing or exhibiting visual depictions that are child pornography, harmful to minors, or obscene as defined by the Kansas Children's Internet Protection Act. (K.S.A. Supp. 2013 75-2589)
- Violating individual privacy rights, including unauthorized disclosure, use and dissemination of personal information regarding minors
- Sending harassing messages to other computer users
- Accessing or attempting to access secure data in an unauthorized manner
- Damaging or attempting to damage computer equipment or software
- Interfering with systems operations, integrity, or security
- Violating copyright laws and software licensing agreements

A patron who is observed using a workstation in an unacceptable manner may be subject to:

- Immediate termination of the Internet session
- Suspension of computer use or other Library use privileges
- Notification of appropriate law enforcement officials
- Prosecution

Internet Safety Policy

In compliance with CIPA and the Kansas Children's Internet Protection Act, the Library implements and enforces technology protection measures in an effort to ensure that no minor has access to

visual depictions that are child pornography, harmful to minors, or obscene, and to ensure that no person has access to visual depictions that are child pornography or obscene while using a public access computer.

A Library employee may disable a technology protection measure if

- Requested to do so by a library patron who is not a minor, and
- The requested access is for legitimate research or other lawful purpose

Library staff monitor usage of the online computer network through Internet filtering software, observations of Library staff and other users, and other means.

Patrons who are prevented from accessing web sites which they believe should not be blocked may request they be unblocked via the online form available through the Library's Internet filtering software. Staff will examine the site and determine whether it should be unblocked.

Patrons who encounter web sites which they believe should be blocked, but which are not, may submit a request in writing to the Library Director. Requests must include the URL of the site.

Concerns about enforcement of this policy or observed patron behavior which violate this policy will also be submitted in writing to the Library Director, providing as much detail as possible.

The library will inform patrons of the provisions of this policy by making the policy available on the library's website.

Library Rights and Responsibilities

Library staff will not disclose patrons' use of the Library with respect to information sought or received via the Internet except pursuant to a valid court order or subpoena authorized under federal, state or local law, or as a result of unacceptable use as described herein.

Library staff may establish limits on the length and number of sessions allowed and may reserve some Internet workstations for specific uses.

The Library is not responsible for any unauthorized or illegal activity conducted over the Internet using Library equipment.

The Library is not responsible for loss of data, damage or liability that may occur from files or programs downloaded from the Internet.

The Library cannot guarantee that Internet filters will block offensive and/or illegal materials.

Policy review

This policy will be reviewed at least once every three years by the Library Board of Trustees.