

WERNERSVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY COMPUTER USE AND INTERNET ACCESS POLICY

PURPOSE

The public libraries of Berks County are committed to the promotion of lifelong learning. As part of that commitment, Wernersville Public Library will provide public access to the diverse and unique resources available via the Internet. All use of these resources will be in support of informational and educational research.

CONDITIONS AND TERMS OF USE

1. Information available via the Internet may be protected by copyrights or trademarks; use of such information must not violate any copyright or trademark law.
2. Because the Internet allows access to ideas, information and commentary from sources around the world, the library cannot control its content. Therefore, individual users must accept responsibility for determining the validity and accuracy of information located on the Internet.
3. The Children's Internet Protection Act (pub.L. 106-554) requires that a library receiving federal funds must "have in place a policy of Internet safety for minors that includes the operation of a technology protection measure with respect to any computers with Internet access..." In compliance with this provision of federal law, the Wernersville Public Library has installed a filtering mechanism on all computers connected to the Internet. Parents are reminded that filtering is not foolproof. It diminishes the likelihood that searchers will inadvertently retrieve text or images that they may find offensive, but does not completely eliminate that possibility. Parents or guardians, **NOT** library staff, are responsible for the Internet information selected and/or accessed by their children. Filters may also block access to sites that users would consider both inoffensive and useful. Parental supervision of all minors searching the Internet is strongly advised.
4. Patrons ten years of age or younger must use the designated children's computers during the entire time they use the computer at WPL
5. Viewing of certain materials in the public library may be considered improper in time, place or manner. The Wernersville Public Library reserves the right to terminate the viewing of such materials.
6. Patrons may not use public library Internet connections for any commercial or for-profit purpose.
7. A cost-recovery fee for printouts will be charged per sheet as follows: 25 cents for black & white and \$1.00 for color.

RIGHT TO PRIVACY

All library users have the right to expect that their information-seeking activities in the library are private and confidential. No records are retained of Internet use by any identifiable minor or adult user.

USER RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Internet users will sign an Internet Use Agreement as per library card application. Agreements for those under 18 years of age will require a parent's or guardian's signature.
2. Computer use will be limited to 60 minutes during one work session per person per day. Special arrangements for longer use will be made at the discretion of the librarian **before** the patron starts the project. Patrons must work on the project and nothing else in the time that was designated for their project. Anyone asked to leave a computer must leave within 2 minutes or they may lose computer privileges.
3. Installation of personal programs is prohibited.
4. Computer users are responsible for damage to equipment beyond what occurs with normal usage; hardware and software may not be abused, modified, or destroyed.
5. WiFi users are expected to follow all applicable computer use rules. Staff will not touch the patron's personal computer and will not disable the library filters on any patron's personal computer.

STAFF ASSISTANCE

Library staff are capable of offering basic instruction in how to navigate. However, library patrons should not expect staff members to guide them through every stage of a search; patrons must be willing to take the initiative and explore on their own.