
Internet Access Policy

Purpose

The public libraries of Berks County are committed to the promotion of lifelong learning. As part of that commitment, the libraries shall provide public access to the diverse and unique resources available via the Internet.

Kutztown Community Library (KCL) agrees to support the Berks County Public Libraries (BCPL) Internet Access Policy. The KCL Internet Access Policy does not supersede the BCPL Internet Access Policy.

Children and the Internet

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 public libraries have installed a filtering mechanism on all computers to protect young users from inappropriate material.

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. Filters may also block access to sites that users consider both inoffensive and useful. Parental supervision of young children searching the Internet is strongly advised.

Rights of Adults

Library staff may not disable the filter on patron-owned laptops or other wireless access devices.

Right to Privacy

All library users have the right to expect their information-seeking activities in the library are private and confidential with the understanding that no records of Internet use are being retained. The library is not responsible for ensuring the privacy of any information or data sent or received by patrons while using the library's network or Wi-Fi.

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 libraries cannot control its content. Therefore, individual users must accept responsibility for determining the validity and accuracy of information

located on the Internet. The libraries are not responsible for any use made of information obtained from Internet resources.

3. The Internet and its available resources may contain material of a controversial nature. Parents or guardians, not library staff, are responsible for the Internet information selected and/or accessed by their children.
4. Viewing of certain materials in a public library may be considered improper in time, place, or manner. Libraries reserve the right to terminate an Internet session that disrupts library services, involves disruptive user behavior, or that violates the law.
5. Patrons may not use public library Internet connections for any commercial or for-profit purpose.
6. The library is not responsible for damages to patron owned equipment while using the libraries wireless internet connection.
7. A fee for printouts will be charged.

User Responsibilities

1. Users must observe time limits and other procedural guidelines set for use of the Internet terminals.
2. Users are responsible for damage to equipment beyond what occurs with normal usage; hardware and software may not be abused, modified, or destroyed.
3. Users must not jeopardize the security of or access to the computer network or other networks on the Internet.
4. Misuse of the computer or Internet access shall result in loss of computer privileges.

Staff Assistance

The staff may offer basic instruction in how to navigate the Internet. However, due to limited staffing and time constraints, patrons are encouraged to work independently.

Amended: 8/10/2023