

Fleetwood Area Public Library Internet Policy

Purpose:

The Fleetwood Area Public Library is committed to the promotion of lifetime learning. As part of this commitment, the library will provide public access to the diverse and unique resources available via the Internet and the World Wide Web.

Conditions and Terms of Use:

1. Copyrights or trademarks may protect information available via the Internet: use of such information must not violate any copyright or trademark laws.
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 obtained on the Internet. The library is not responsible for any use of information obtained from Internet sources.
3. The Internet and its available resources may obtain material of a controversial nature. Parents or guardians, **NOT** library staff, are responsible for the Internet information selected and/or accessed by their children. Parents who believe their children cannot responsibly use the library's Internet access are requested to monitor their children's Internet use.
4. Viewing of certain materials in the public library may be considered improper in time, place or manner. Libraries reserve the right to terminate an Internet session that disrupts library services or that involves user behavior that violates library policy.
5. Patrons may not use public library Internet connections for any commercial or for-profit purpose.
6. A cost-recovery fee for printouts will be charged. The charge for black and white printouts will be ¢.10 per side, and the charge for color printout will be ¢.50 per side. Printouts must be paid for at the time of service. The library will hold on to patron's printouts until payment is made.

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 include 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 searches 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 would consider both inoffensive and useful. Parental supervision of young children searching the Internet is strongly advised.

User Responsibilities:

1. Users will sign an Internet use agreement; agreements for those under 18 years of age will require parent or legal guardian signature.
2. Patrons must have a valid Berks County Library Card in order to use a computer.
3. Users are given one hour of time. Time may be extended when no one is waiting for access to a computer.
4. Users are responsible for damage to equipment beyond what occurs with normal usage; hardware and software may not be abused, modified, or destroyed.
5. Patron needing to do research will be given priority over those playing games, checking email, etc. Patrons abusing the Internet by accessing inappropriate sites will lose their Internet privileges.

Staff Assistance:

Library staff has received training in Internet searching and are capable of offering basic instruction in how to navigate. However, due to limited staffing and time constraint, patrons are encouraged to take the initiative and explore on their own.

- *The definition of “explicit sexual materials” is found in 18 P.A.C.5903*

Revised May 5, 2004

Revised June 19, 2006

Reviewed June 21, 2008

Reviewed June 14, 2009

Reviewed June 15, 2010

Reviewed June 14, 2011

Revised November 18, 2014

Revised April 18, 2017