

Brown County Public Library Internet Use Policy and Guidelines (adopted 10/1996, reviewed 1/2007, revised 12/2013, revised 12/14, reviewed 12/2015, revised 12/2016, reviewed 12/2017, reviewed 12/2018, reviewed 12/2019)

Introduction

In accord with Indiana Code (IC 36-12-1-12), the Brown County Public Library Board of Trustees performs a public review of this Internet and Computer Use Policy annually. The Library's Internet and Computer Use Policy and Guidelines and Internet Use Contract are available on the Library's website, browncounty.lib.in.us.

The Brown County Public Library provides computers which allow the public access to a variety of electronic resources, including databases and the library catalog, productivity software, such as word processors and spreadsheets, and the Internet.

All Library patrons accessing the Internet will be required to read and agree to the Brown County Public Library Internet Use Policy. By clicking "accept" on the computer screen before each use, you are confirming that you understand this policy and agree to abide by the rules set forth in this policy as adopted by the Brown County Public Library Board of Trustees. This policy applies to any access of the Library's network (wired or wireless), whether from Library computers or personal laptops, smartphones, tablets, or other devices.

Disclaimer

The Library is not responsible for the accuracy or quality of information users find on the Internet, nor is it responsible for any damages, direct or indirect, arising from the use of its Internet access. The Library strongly recommends that parents use the Internet with their children and provide appropriate supervision.

The Library makes no guarantee of network security. Furthermore, the Library's wireless network is not secure as it is not encrypted. Unless additional precautions are taken by the user, any information sent to or from laptops, smartphones, tablets, or other devices could potentially be intercepted by a third party within range using the appropriate hardware/software. Users submitting personal or financial information via the Library's network (wired or wireless) do so at their own risk. The Library assumes no liability for any loss of or damage to the user's data or personal property used to access Library computers or networks.

Waiver

Users are responsible for their Internet use including the information they access and display. Parents of minor children must assume responsibility for their children's use of or exposure to the Internet through the Library. Users release the Library and its agents from any liability arising directly or indirectly from their use of the Internet.

Computer Use

All computers are available on a first-come, first-served basis. The Library employs an automated system to handle time limits and waiting lists.

Public computers are available during normal operating hours; however they will automatically shut down 15 minutes before closing. Patrons are responsible for managing their time accordingly. Wireless Internet access may be unavailable when the Library is closed.

Computer classes, maintenance, or other special events may require the computers to be temporarily unavailable to the public.

Computer sessions are scheduled for 30 minutes, the ability to extend a session will be granted if others are not waiting. A three hour daily time limit is in place for all patrons. Special circumstances such as online testing or other educational needs may warrant an exception to this limit.

Filtering

The Library complies with the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA). CIPA compliant filters are used on all public access computers and any computer accessing the Internet through the library's wireless access points.

Filters aim to protect against visual depictions of obscenity, child pornography, and materials harmful to/or inappropriate for minors. While the Library attempts through filtering software to prevent access to inappropriate material, it is technically impossible to prevent access to all objectionable resources or prevent incidental blocking of acceptable resources.

CIPA does not allow for the disabling of filtering software for minors under any circumstance.

Inappropriate Use

Internet access is a privilege, not a right, and inappropriate or illegal use may result in cancellation of those privileges. Examples of unacceptable usage include, but are not limited to:

- Harassment or bullying of other patrons while on Library property;
- Destruction of, or damage to equipment, software or data belonging to the Library or other patrons;
- Violation of computer security or unauthorized access of any kind, including computer hacking
- Access, upload, download, or distribute pornographic, obscene, or sexually explicit materials, or any excessively violent materials;
- Violation of copyright laws;
- Violation of any local, state, or federal statutes;
- Transmission of libelous, slanderous, misrepresentative material, including expressions of bigotry, racism, and violence;
- Gambling;
- Unauthorized disclosure, use and dissemination of personal information for any reason, including sending spam email.

When violations of the Brown County Public Library Internet and Computer Use Policy occur; the Library patron may be denied the privilege of Internet connection. At the discretion of the Director, computer privileges may be immediately revoked if the situation warrants this action. Typical repercussions are as follows.

- First offense: warning;
- Second offense: 30-day suspension of computer privileges;
- Third offense: 90-day *minimum* suspension of computer privileges. The length of suspension will be determined by the Library Director and/or the Library Board. The offender will be notified of the length of suspension.

All provisions of the Brown County Public Library Internet Policy are subordinate to local, state, and federal statute.