

Internet Acceptable Use & Safety Policy

This policy specifically addresses the use of Library computers to access the Internet and other Library offerings.

Approved access to the Internet is available only in two ways:

1. Through the use of Library provided computers;
2. Through a WI-FI (wireless) connection provided by the Library

Liability Disclaimer

The library is not liable for any damages including, but not limited to, damage to equipment, loss of data, the accuracy, nature or quality of information gathered through library provided internet access.

Confidentiality

The Library will not share patrons' personal information without consent or except when lawfully required. The Library does not maintain logs of patron computer usage; neither time spent nor sites visited. The Library maintains the security of the computers but patrons must protect their own personally identifiable information.

Staff Assistance

Staff is available to assist patrons in using the Internet, subject to limitations of time and expertise.

Responsibilities of Computer Users

Internet access and computer use provided by Lowell Public Library is a privilege and is subject to the policies and procedures set forth at the Lowell Public Library's discretion.

Internet computer users must know basic computer use and have a preliminary knowledge of the Internet and its resources.

The use of the Library's computers and connectivity is guided by the following principles:

1. Respect for the rights, sensibilities and privacy of all library users.
2. Use of computer resources only for legal purposes.
3. Compliance with the state and federal laws protecting copyright and software licensing of programs and data.
4. Avoidance of sites inappropriate for public viewing.
5. Adherence to measures designed to protect the Internet safety of computer users, especially minors.

Unacceptable use includes, but is not limited to:

Any uses deemed inappropriate at the discretion of the Lowell Public Library.

The Library will be the sole arbitrator of what constitutes a violation of this policy.

Internet Safety Policy

Lowell Public Library receives federal funding for public internet access, and is required to comply with the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA). More information about CIPA is available at <http://www.fcc.gov/guides/childrens-internet-protection-act>

The Library uses Technology Protection Measures to block and filter Internet access to visual depictions that are considered by law to be obscene, child pornography or harmful to minors. The filtering software may block access to sites, which are legal and acceptable by Library standards. At their discretion, The Library Director may disable or modify a filter upon request by an adult patron 18 years of age or older.

Rules for Internet Use by Children

The library cannot guarantee that children and young adults will not be able to access sites that may be unsuitable for children. Parents are responsible for supervising and approving their child's use of the Internet.

The Library maintains parents are the best filters of what is appropriate or not for their children to view on the internet.

Child Pornography

It is illegal to possess or view child pornography or the obscene visual representations of the sexual abuse of children in the Library.

18 U.S. Code § 2256 - "Child Pornography" Defined.

18 U.S. Code § 1466A - Obscene visual representations of the sexual abuse of children

Sanctions

Violators of this Internet Acceptable Use & Safety Policy may lose library privileges. Suspicion of illegal activities will result in the suspension of a user's privileges; proof of wrongdoing will result in the termination of a user's privileges.

Library computer privileges will be permanently revoked for repeated violation and disregard of Library policies. Written notice will be given to a patron whose privileges have been suspended or revoked; a copy will be kept on file at the library. See policy [60.000 - Patron Responsibilities](#)

Staff will be subject to normal disciplinary procedures as well for misuse of Library provided computers.

Illegal acts involving Library computing resources are subject to prosecution by local, state or federal authorities.