

POLICY AND GUIDELINES FOR PUBLIC INTERNET ACCESS

The Merrimack Public Library offers direct, unfiltered access to the Internet and wireless Internet (WiFi), as a basic service and does not place restrictions on who may use the Internet at the library. This policy and its guidelines apply to the library's Internet computers, the library's WiFi and patrons accessing these services.

DISCLAIMER:

- Library patrons use the public computers and the Internet at their own risk
- The library's WiFi access is not a secure connection. WiFi users are responsible for protecting their own data.
- The library cannot censor access to material nor protect users from information they find offensive or controversial
- Not all sites on the Internet provide accurate, complete or current information. Users should evaluate Internet sources just as they do printed publications, questioning the validity of information provided.
- The library expressly disclaims any liability or responsibility arising from access to or use of information obtained through the Internet, or any consequences thereof. The library is not responsible for any damage to patron data that is being accessed with library equipment, or for any damage to patron devices plugged in to library electrical outlets, equipment, or connected to the library's public WiFi.
- Patrons are responsible for anything purchased via the Internet and for payment of said items. The library will not be responsible for these costs and will not involve itself in the ordering of these materials.
- Patrons are responsible for damage to library hardware or software due to inappropriate actions or while using the computers. Willful and malicious damage to equipment will result in suspension of library services and/or prosecution of criminal charges [RSA 202-A:24]
- Lastly, library patrons should be aware that privacy on the public Internet terminals cannot be guaranteed due to provisions of the Patriot Act.

GUIDELINES:

Access to the Internet will be provided during normal business hours. The same guidelines that apply to the library's Internet computers apply to those accessing WiFi on a library laptop or their personal device. Those accessing the library's public Internet connection are expected to use these resources in a responsible manner, consistent with the educational, informational and recreational purposes for which they are provided.

- Internet access may be used for legal purposes only. Patrons must obey all applicable federal, state and local laws including, but not limited to, copyright, licensing and content restrictions.

- Patrons shall not:
 1. View, print, distribute, display, send or receive text or graphics that may be construed as obscene under Chapter 650 of the New Hampshire Revised Statutes Annotated.
 2. View, print, distribute, display, send or receive text or graphics that may be construed to be child pornography under Chapter 649 A or 649 B of the New Hampshire Revised Statutes Annotated.
 3. Disseminate exhibit or display materials to minors that may be considered harmful to minors under Chapter 571 B of the New Hampshire Revised Statutes Annotated.

Use of the Internet

Internet users who have Merrimack Library card will log in to a time-management software when they sit down at a computer. Internet users who do not have a Merrimack Library card can obtain a guest pass from Staff at the Reference or Circulation Desks. Users will be required to read and “Accept” the library’s Internet Policy before they can proceed.

- Sessions are limited to one hour unless no one else is waiting. (See the library’s current Fines & Fees Schedule)
- Users may print pages to a printer for a fee. (See the library’s current Fines & Fees Schedule) Printing for WiFi users is not available
- In the Children’s Room children twelve and under and their caregivers are given priority to the user of the Internet computer in the Children’s Room. Similar priorities apply for middle school and high school students in the Teen Room.
- Users may download material onto the computer’s hard drive for temporary use. The time management software will automatically restart the computer at the end of the user’s session. The hard drives are automatically cleared every time the computer is restarted.
- Users may download material from the library’s public computers onto their own storage media. The library does not guarantee that all forms of storage media will be compatible with our public computers.
- Storage media is available to purchase at the Reference Desk.

The library reserves the right to terminate or restrict the user’s Internet privileges for abuse of these conditions or for unauthorized user of the library’s Internet connection.

Adopted June 19, 2003, amended July 16, 2003, amended November 15, 2006, amended April 12, 2011, amended March 26, 2013, amended September 17, 2013, amended September 20, 2016.