

Franklin Public Library

Public Internet Access, Computer Use and Safety Policy

(Adopted 03/01/2003)

(Revised 08/23/2010)

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The Franklin Public Library provides free public access to the Internet in support of its mission to provide technology resources to serve the informational, educational, cultural, and recreational needs of all residents of the community. Because the Internet is a vast, unregulated medium, the library cannot control and is not responsible for the content, accuracy, currency or appropriateness of material found online. Individuals must accept responsibility for evaluating content.

OPEN ACCESS

The Franklin Public Library provides access to the Internet equally to all library customers and expressly disclaims any liability or responsibility arising from access to or use of information obtained through the Internet, or any consequences thereof.

While accessing the Internet at the library, users must comply with all applicable federal, state and local laws. Franklin Public Library expressly prohibits any use of library equipment to access material that is obscene, child pornography, or harmful to minors. You are responsible for complying with copyright law, licensing agreements and the policies of individual websites that you view. Users may not attempt in any way to alter, reconfigure, damage, or sabotage computer hardware or software and will be financially responsible for any malicious damage to hardware or software.

As with other library materials, it is both the right and responsibility of parents/guardians to supervise their children's access to Internet resources in the library. Restriction of a minor's access to the Internet is the responsibility of the parent/guardian. The library staff does not act in the place of a parent to restrict what a child may access.

WIRELESS INTERNET ACCESS (Wi-Fi)

The library provides free, unsecured, wireless Internet access for public use. The library does not provide technical support for privately owned personal wireless devices. The library assumes no responsibility for the safety of equipment or for notebook/laptop computer or other wireless device configurations, security, or data files resulting from connection to the library's wireless access. Security for personal wireless devices rests solely with the owner of the wireless device. The library is not responsible for any theft, damage or misuse of customers' personal wireless devices while in the library. Personal use of the library's public wireless access will conform to policies regulating other types of public Internet access provided by the library.

FILTERING

The Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) requires the library to implement a technology protection measure with the intent of filtering Internet access to visual depictions that are obscene, child pornography, or harmful to minors.

Patrons should be aware of the limitations of Internet filtering technology. While designed to restrict access to content deemed inappropriate, the technology is no substitute for individual judgment and/or parental guidance. Resources which have legitimate research value may be inadvertently blocked, while some potentially objectionable content is allowed through. The library is not responsible for failure of the filtering technology.

Patrons eighteen and over may request staff to temporarily disable the measure for lawful research purposes.

SECURITY & PRIVACY

The library takes a variety of measures to protect your privacy when you use library computers, however, privacy cannot be guaranteed. Customers handling financial transactions or other activities that require confidentiality do so at their own risk. The Franklin Public Library accepts no liability for any loss of privacy or data customers may experience or any damage or harm arising from such loss. The library is not responsible for the privacy practices or security of any web sites accessed by customers.

The library's computers are in a public area; others may be involuntarily exposed to what you are viewing. Some resources may contain material that some people find offensive, and some sites are inappropriate for children. The library asks that you remain sensitive to the fact that you are working in a public environment shared by people of all ages. Users may not use the Internet in a manner that is deliberately offensive or creates a hostile or intimidating environment.

Parents and guardians should urge minors to follow basic safety guidelines when using the Internet either at the library or at home. Insist they never give out personal information (name, address, phone number, etc.), never arrange via a computer to meet someone and never respond to messages that are threatening, obscene or suggestive, remembering that people online may not be who they say they are.

It is the library's practice not to maintain a history of our customers' computer use. The library will not retrieve any information, including web sites visited, passwords or credit card numbers, or any other information a customer has entered.

The Franklin Public Library will not release information on the use of specific Internet resources by the public except as required by law or as necessary for the proper operation of the library.

RULES GOVERNING USE OF LIBRARY COMPUTERS

1. Sign in with a librarian for a computer before using it.
2. The computers may be used on a first-come, first-served basis, or may be reserved up to three days in advance. Reservations will be held for 10 minutes.
3. Each individual is limited to one hour per day of computer use. Time may be extended if no one is waiting.

4. When finished with the computer, log off completely, this will protect the privacy of your search. Do not turn off the computer.
5. Computers may be used until 15 minutes before the library closes.
6. Promptly give up the computer when requested by staff.
7. The library may schedule use of any or all computers for such activities as instruction or maintenance. Library use of computers will take precedence over use by individual customers.
8. The library's computers are set up for use by a single individual, except in special cases, such as when a parent/guardian is with a child. Please see a librarian to make special arrangements.
9. There is a charge for each sheet of paper printed. The charge is posted. Users are encouraged to use the Print Preview function to avoid unwanted pages.
10. You may download files passing the virus protection software using supported media, approved by a librarian. Any use of accessories or plug-ins must be approved by a librarian. The library is not responsible for damage to personal equipment or to your media or for corruption of your data, including damage caused by mechanical malfunction or corruption caused by virus or spyware infection while using library computers.
11. The library staff cannot provide in-depth computer training. The staff will attempt to answer basic questions.
12. Children must show basic computer knowledge or be accompanied by an adult or other knowledgeable person to use the computer.
13. Use headphones when listening to audio content, and keep the volume low so you do not disturb others.
15. Do not interfere with or disrupt others. Respect the privacy of others by not attempting to observe or comment on what others are viewing.
16. Do not misuse computer equipment.

COMPLIANCE

Failure to comply with this policy and the rules for computer use may result in the loss of computer privileges, loss of library privileges, and possible prosecution.