

PUBLIC INTERNET ACCESS / COMPUTER LAB POLICY

To fulfill its mission of providing each individual with equal and adequate access to informational resources, The Raymond A. Whitwer Tilden Public Library (herein referred to as The Tilden Public Library) provides free Public Internet Access to its patrons, community members, and guests of the library.

The internet consists of information and resources on a wide range of topics and subject matter, contributed and provided by an infinite number of individuals and organizations globally. Users should be aware that not all information available through the Internet is accurate, complete, up-to-date, legal, factual or authoritative, and is not warranted by the Tilden Public Library as such. Users must be responsible for verifying the accuracy of any material they choose to use. The Tilden Public Library assumes no responsibility and shall have no liability for any direct, indirect or consequential damages arising from the use of information found on the Internet, or any communications sent through the library's Internet terminals. The library does not monitor an individual's use of the Internet; nor does the library currently employ filtering software; however measures have been taken to block harmful and inappropriate information, specifically visual depictions of material deemed obscene or pornographic.

Users are asked to abide by the following **Acceptable Use Policy** and laws:

- Users may not use library computers for viewing, sending or receiving materials which may be determined to be harmful to minors as defined by State of Nebraska Statutes Section 28-807(6).
- Users may not use library computers for viewing, sending or receiving materials which may be determined to be obscene as defined by State of Nebraska Statutes 28-807(10).
- Users may not violate licensing agreements and copyright laws (Title 17, United States Code).
- Library computers may not be used for inappropriate network usage including unauthorized access (hacking) or unauthorized disclosure, use and/or dissemination of personal identification information, or for any degree of cyber-bullying.
- User will not attempt in any way to alter, damage, abuse or sabotage computer equipment or software, alter configurations or install any software.
- Users are asked to be respectful of others around them and to keep distractions at a minimum. Altercations, antagonizing, and bullying in the computer lab will not be tolerated.
- No food or drink of any kind will be allowed into the computer lab.

The Internet access computers are located in the computer lab, which is a public area for use by Library guests of all ages, backgrounds, sensitivities and values. Users are expected to consider this when accessing potentially controversial information and images, and respect that not all content is philosophically acceptable to all individuals.

Library staff has the right to request computer users to vacate the lab if their behavior is unacceptable. Abuse or violation of the **Acceptable Use Policy** will result in a loss of internet privileges. Committing illegal violations as defined by State of Nebraska Statutes will result in permanent loss of Internet privileges at the Tilden Public Library and may also result in financial liability and/or criminal charges. Police will be notified of any Child Pornography accessed.

Sixth grade youth or younger must either be accompanied in the computer lab by a parent, or guardian 18 years or older, or submit to the circulation desk a signed permission slip from a parent or legal guardian in order to use the Public Internet Access computers. Library staff has the option to verify permissions slips at any time. At the end of the school year, students who have completed the sixth grade will be regarded as seventh grade students. Non-internet access computers, equipped with learning & entertainment software, and Microsoft Office programs are available for children and minors as an alternative to the computers in the computer lab. These are located in the children's section of the library.

Parents are strongly urged to read and discuss with their children information on internet safety. Free brochures on this subject are located in the Library.

Public Access Internet computers are available for use by library patrons and non-patrons. Seventh grade users and older will be asked to read the Public Internet and Computer Use Policy, and sign a statement of responsibility. Parents or guardians of sixth grade students or younger will assume all responsibility for the use of the Internet by his or her child, and agrees to hold the library harmless from any and all liability that may occur from the use. Computer users or the parents/legal guardians of users are responsible for the repair/replacement of hardware or software damaged from misuse or abuse while using library computer equipment.

Computer lab users are asked to sign in with their name and time on the designated sheet before accessing the computers. Non-patrons and/or persons unfamiliar with library staff will be asked to show a valid picture ID upon signing in. Users are guaranteed 30 minutes of computer usage time. The use time may be extended if there are no others waiting to use a computer. Since any data or work cannot be saved on the computers in the lab, users may bring their own discs, flash drives or other storage devices in which to save data. Downloading executable software or programs will not be allowed, however, users may bring in discs, flash drives or storage cards to work from. Headphones are available from the circulation desk, and will be returned to the desk after use.

The Computer lab is available during regular library business hours; however, the lab will close 15 minutes prior to the closing of the library.

Wireless:

Free wireless Internet access is available throughout the library and Lied Auditorium. The wireless internet access we offer is unfiltered. While using this free service, you agree to abide by the library's **Internet Acceptable Use Policy**. Your access to wireless service is conditioned on legal and appropriate use. Activities conducted online through this service shall not violate any applicable law or regulation or the rights of the Tilden Public Library, or any third party.

The library's wireless network is unsecured. Information sent to and from your notebook/laptop computer or other wireless device may be captured by anyone else with a wireless device and the appropriate software. Do not use it for sensitive information such as personal banking, shopping, or any website that requires a special log in.

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.

The Tilden Public Library reserves the right to modify these policies if circumstances warrant.