

206. Internet & Computer Usage Policy

Created July 2022

The Board of Trustee's intent is to provide access that fairly and effectively serves the diverse needs of patrons. Offering free public access to the internet is consistent with the library's mission to support lifelong learning. The library's policy in this regard reflects the principles articulated in the following statements by the American Library Association:

- Library Bill of Rights
- Access to Digital Information, Services, and Networks
- Freedom To Read Statement

Internet Access

The Freeport Public Library provides its patrons with free access to the internet via public computers and its wireless network. The library requires that patrons using the internet do so within the guidelines of acceptable use. Unacceptable uses include, but are not limited to:

- Hacking
- Fraud
- Use of peer to peer or other file sharing software
- Violation of copyright laws or software licensing agreements
- Accessing illegal sites and viewing "unaccepted" sites, determined by the library staff, including but not limited to pornography and obscenity
- Harassment of other patrons
- Destruction of or damage to equipment, software, or data belonging to the library or other patrons
- Behaving in a manner that is disruptive to other patrons

Children's Access to the Internet

The library supports the right of all library patrons to access information and will not deny access to the internet based solely on age. The library recognizes the internet may contain material that is inappropriate for children. Parents or legal guardians are expected to monitor and supervise their children's use of the internet.

All of the computers in the Freeport Public Library have internet filtering software installed. The computers have been set up to filter sites with pornography and other material deemed to be illegal under federal laws. While these filters try to inhibit access to such sites, there is no guarantee that they are 100% effective due to the inexact nature of the filter design. Parents are reminded that it is their responsibility to monitor their child's viewing and Internet use in the library.

Desktop Computers

The library offers desktop computers for use by any patron. Computers may be reserved up to a week in advance by patrons holding a valid public library card registered in our system. Patrons may also sign on using a guest pass. The library offers public use computers in these areas of the library:

- Youth Services Department computers are intended for children, teens, and adults accompanying children.
- Adult Services Department computers are intended for teens and adults.