

COMPUTER USE AND WIRELESS ACCESS

The Patrick Heath Public Library supports the principle of open access to information and ideas, regardless of the medium in which they exist. The library believes that a democracy can only succeed if its citizens have access to the information necessary to form opinions and make decisions on issues affecting their lives. The library regards access to this information as a right of free citizens. The library endorses the American Library Association's Code of Ethics, Freedom to Read Statement, the Library Bill of Rights, and the interpretations of the Library Bill of Rights.

Computer and wireless resources accessible through the library are provided equally to all library users who comply with policy guidelines and rules governing use.

PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITY:

Because the possibility exists that children may have access to sexually explicit materials and other information resources on the Internet that some people may find controversial, indecent, or inappropriate, parents are advised to supervise their children's Internet sessions. Parents or guardians, not the library or its staff, are responsible for the Internet information selected and/or accessed by their children. Parents also may be held responsible for their children's misuse of computers. For more information on children and the Internet, see "[Child Safety on the Information Highway](#)" produced by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, an Interactive Service Organization at <http://www.safekids.com/child-safety-on-the-information-highway/>. The Spanish language version is available at http://www.missingkids.com/en_US/publications/NC169.pdf

DISCLAIMER:

The Internet is an unregulated global entity and is the largest electronic information network in the world, enabling the library to provide information to our patrons beyond the library's collection. The Internet and its available resources contain a wide variety of material and opinions from varied points of view. Due to the Internet's constantly changing nature, the Patrick Heath Public Library has no control over the information or its quality, accuracy, or currency. Just as the library does not vouch for or endorse the viewpoints of printed material in the collection, it does not do so for electronic information. Selection policies that serve to govern the library's purchase of printed materials do not apply to material accessed electronically.

The library assumes no responsibility for the content of any Internet site, or for damages, direct or indirect, arising from use of electronic services through our system.

Users are warned that there are sexually explicit materials and other information resources on the Internet that some people may personally find controversial, indecent,

or inappropriate. Other Internet sites may contain material that is illegal, defamatory, or inaccurate. It is therefore the responsibility of the user to evaluate the validity and acceptability of information found.

INTERNET PROTECTION:

The library's computers are filtered and the Patrick Heath Public Library and its Advisory Board see no reason at this time to discontinue this practice. Library staff will monitor computer usage as time allows. Users should be aware that filtering software might not block inappropriate material at all times.

TEXAS PENAL CODE:

Computer users are advised of the following law of the State of Texas:

Sec. 43.22. Obscene Display or Distribution.

- (a) A person commits an offense if he intentionally or knowingly displays or distributes an obscene photograph, drawing, or similar visual representation or other obscene material and is reckless about whether a person is present who will be offended or alarmed by the display or distribution.
- (b) An offense under this section is a Class C misdemeanor.

Acts 1973, 63rd Leg., p. 883, ch. 399, Sec. 1, eff. Jan 1, 1974. Amended by Acts 1993, 73rd Leg., ch. 900, Sec. 1.01, eff. Sept. 1, 1994.

SOCIAL NETWORKING SITES:

The Patrick Heath Public Library regards online social software applications in the same way as its other information resources in accordance with its mission of serving the public's need for information, education, culture and recreation.

Social software is defined as any website or application which allows users to share information. Social software can include, but is not limited to, blogging, instant messaging, social networking sites, and wikis. Examples of such sites are Twitter, Facebook, Pinterest, Instagram, YouTube, and various blogging sites like Blogger and Wordpress. As with more traditional resources, the library does not act in place of or in the absence of a parent and is not responsible for enforcing any restrictions which a parent or guardian may place on a minor's use of this resource.

COPYRIGHT:

U.S. copyright law (Title 17, U.S. Code) prohibits the unauthorized reproduction or distribution of copyrighted materials, except as permitted by the principles of "fair use." Users may not copy or distribute electronic materials (including electronic mail, text,

images, programs, or data) without the explicit permission of the copyright holder. Responsibility for any consequences of copyright infringement lies with the user.

GUIDELINES FOR COMPUTER, INTERNET AND WIRELESS ACCESS:

Internet and wireless access and library computers are normally available, subject to periodic maintenance, during all hours that the library is open. Use of the computers is on a first-come, first-served basis. Patrons activate a computer session at a self-serve, reservation computer with their library card; should the patron not have a library card, a guest card is provided by the library staff. No telephone appointments will be taken.

2. Youth computers are for children up to and including grade 5. Youth must be old enough to operate the computer independently. In compliance with library policy on unattended children, “a responsible parent, guardian, teacher or assigned caregiver who is at least 16 years of age) must remain on the Library Premises with children 10 and under at all times”. Parents/guardians with infants and toddlers are welcome to use the youth computers.

3. Computers are available for youths in grade 6 and up in the second floor young adult department.

4. Children 16 years of age and under may not sit in the adult computer area without prior permission from library staff. Toddlers and infants are exempt; however, they must be kept as quiet as possible so as not to disturb other computer users.

5. Time on each workstation and number of access sessions available per day and per user will be limited to two sessions up to one hour each. The hour long sessions can be consecutive if no one else is waiting to use the computers. Users must end their session and leave the workstation when asked to do so by library staff.

6. Pages may be printed for a fee per copy. Both black-and-white and color printing are available through a self-serve, printer from the public computers and to users of personal laptops, tablets and smart phones in the library as well as computers located offsite. The printing station will accept coins and/or bills but not credit cards. Users wishing to claim any unused funds must do so at the end of their printing session. Any change will be returned in coinage. Internet access is necessary in order to use the offsite service.

7. To better ascertain needs and provide the most effective service to all users at the time of computer checkout, library staff on duty may ask about intended use of the computer in order to assign a particular computer.

8. Library staff reserves the right to refuse to print inappropriate materials.

9. Users 17 years of age and older requesting an adult computer may be asked for positive identification to prove date of birth.

10. In accordance with the Neighborhood Children's Internet Protection Act (N-CIPA) and to further protect minors, users

- (I) must not provide access by minors to inappropriate matter on the Internet and the World Wide Web;
- (II) are prohibited from engaging in unauthorized access, including "hacking," and other unlawful activities by minors online;
- (III) are prohibited from unauthorized disclosure, use or dissemination of personal identification information regarding minors; and
- (IV) must abide by measures designed to restrict minors' access to materials harmful to minors.

11. Users assume full responsibility for submitting electronic forms during their computer sessions. It is not appropriate for users to ask library staff to assist with financial decisions when making online transactions.

12. Users will respect the privacy of other users, and will refrain from attempting to view or read material being utilized by others.

13. By mutual agreement, two persons may share one session as long as their behavior or conversation does not disturb other users or library staff. Due to limited seating, only one seat is guaranteed per assigned computer

14. No audible electronic sounds are permitted on wireless devices or public computers. Personal wireless devices must be muted. The library provides headphones for users of personal devices or public computers. Please be mindful of others when using cell phones at public computers.

15. Use of the library's wireless resources falls under the same guidelines put forth for use of the library's public computers. Devices that are considered wireless include-but are not limited to-laptops, smartphones, tablets and eReaders.

16. Library staff will be available to assist library patrons in the use of electronic resources as time permits, but may not be familiar with every application. Due to scheduling constraints, there may not be a computer trained person on duty at all times. On such occasions complete technical support cannot be provided. If a patron has a legitimate request for staff time to assist with technical issues that staff or patron determines may take longer than 15 minutes, patrons will be asked to make an appointment with staff.

17. Library staff will provide general information on the settings necessary to access the Internet via wireless connections, but are not responsible for any changes made to the user's wireless device settings and cannot guarantee that hardware will work with the library's wireless connection.

18. If a user has problems accessing the Internet with a personal wireless device, staff will verify that the library's connections are running, but cannot assist in making changes to the user's network settings or perform any troubleshooting on the user's own wireless device. Users should refer to owner's manuals or other support services offered by the device manufacturer.

19. As with most public wireless hotspots, the library's wireless connection is not secure or filtered. Any information being sent or received could potentially be intercepted by another wireless user. Cautious and informed wireless users should choose not to transmit their financial information, passwords and any other sensitive personal information while using any hotspot. Users are encouraged to take appropriate precautions when using this service.

20. The library will not be responsible for any information (i.e. credit card) that is compromised, or for any damage caused to hardware or software due to electric surges, security issues or consequences caused by viruses or hacking. All wireless users should have up-to-date virus protection on their wireless device.

RULES GOVERNING USE:

Use of library computers, Internet and wireless access is a privilege, not a right, and inappropriate use will result in a cancellation of this privilege. Examples of inappropriate use include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Obscene behavior including public display of obscene materials on computer screens or in hard copy.
2. Any act in violation of the Neighborhood Children's Internet Protection Act or Section 43.22 of the Texas Penal Code.
3. Excessive demands on library staff for assistance in using the computers.
4. Using the workstations or wireless devices to gain access to the Library's networks or computer systems or to any other network or computer system.
5. Obstructing other people's work by consuming large amounts of system resources or by deliberately crashing any library computer system.
6. Making any attempt to degrade, damage, or disrupt computer equipment or software.
7. Making any attempt to alter software configurations.
8. Making any attempt to cause degradation of library system performance.

9. Using any library workstation for any illegal or criminal purpose.
10. Engaging in any activity which is deliberately and maliciously offensive, libelous, or slanderous.
11. Engaging in behavior that is disruptive to other computer users.
12. Uploading or creating computer viruses.
13. Invading the privacy of other individuals.
14. Violating copyright laws or software licensing agreements.
15. Installing any software on library computers.

Violations will result in loss of computer privileges. Unlawful activities or deliberate misuse of computers will be dealt with in a serious and appropriate manner to the full extent of local, state, and federal law.

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