Acceptable Use Policy for Public Internet, WiFi, and Computer Access

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Overview

Library computers, public WiFi, and internet access (hereafter known collectively as "technology services") are available to the general public. Providing access to these resources is consistent with the Library's mission to serve the community.

The internet is an unregulated medium. Information available on the internet includes material that is enriching as well as material that may be offensive, disturbing, dated, or inaccurate. Library patrons are encouraged to ask a librarian for assistance in finding the best sources for their informational needs.

The Library does not monitor and has no control over information available through the Internet, and specifically disclaims any warranty as to the information's accuracy, authoritativeness, timeliness, usefulness, or fitness for a particular purpose. The availability of online information does not constitute endorsement of the content by the Library and patrons should use it at their own risk.

Internet Safety

The Library will take reasonable steps to promote the safety and security of all users of the Library's technology resources. The Library complies with the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) to meet criteria necessary to receive federal technology funding. As part of this compliance, and to the extent practical, the Library employs internet filtering to block access to visual depictions of material deemed obscene, pornographic, or harmful to minors. What is considered harmful is determined by the software and may not cover materials parents may perceive as harmful.

Subject to request, internet filtering may be disabled for adults or, in the case of minors under the age of 17, relaxed only for bonafide research or other lawful purposes.

Patrons are expected to utilize the Library's technology resources in a legal and responsible manner. Misuse of the Library's technology services will result in loss of library privileges.

Examples of unacceptable use include but are not limited to:

- Reproducing or distributing copyrighted materials;
- Degrading or disrupting equipment or system performance;
- Vandalizing the data of other users;
- Gaining unauthorized access to resources or entities;
- Invading the privacy of individuals;
- Violating federal, state, or local laws or regulations, including those regarding accessing, viewing, printing, or distributing obscene material or child pornography;
- Engaging in any activity that is offensive or creates an intimidating or hostile environment.

As with other Library materials, a minor's use of the Library's technology resources is the responsibility of parents and/or legal guardians. The Library encourages parents and guardians to instruct their children regarding the appropriateness of online resources they may access. Librarians cannot act in the place of parents in providing constant care and supervision of children as they explore the internet.

Policies and Procedures

- Computers are "assigned" by Library staff when users sign up at our circulation desks.
- All users are expected to be considerate of others, which includes respecting their privacy and property. The use of the Library's technology resources to intimidate, threaten, or defame anyone is expressly forbidden. See also our Patron Conduct Policy.
- Responsibility rests with the user to log out of his or her computer session when finished, so as to protect personal information.
- Theft or damage to Library technology resources will be reported to the appropriate authorities.
- Unauthorized software is prohibited. Librarians may, on a case-by-case basis, grant permission for a user to temporarily install or run a specific program.
- Printing from Library computers is available for a fee.

Wireless Network

The Library currently provides an unsecured WiFi network for public use that is available at all times. Most public wireless networks are not secure. Users should use caution when transmitting personal information such as social security, bank account, or credit card numbers, passwords, or other sensitive information as it could be intercepted. Patrons assume all risks and responsibilities to provide anti-virus protection and appropriately configure security settings on their laptops or devices.

- The Library reserves the right to secure this network and/or shut it down for part of the day at any time without any prior notice.
- Wireless printing is available for a fee.
- Due to the diverse array of hardware and software we cannot guarantee all devices will work with our print service or wireless network. Depending on availability, staff can

provide de minimis effort in assisting patrons connect or print.

Disclaimer: Use of the Library's network and internet is entirely at the risk of the user. The Library disclaims all liability for loss of data or confidential information or damages resulting from that loss.

The Public Access Computing policy was adopted on January 15, 2009; amended to include the Internet Safety policy on May 4, 2016; amended and approved on December 8, 2016.

Amended and approved by the York Public Library Board of Trustees, February 12, 2026.