

Internet Acceptable Use Policy

Purpose

Lycoming County Library System is committed to the promotion of lifelong learning. Pursuant to that commitment, the libraries provide public access to the diverse and unique resources available via the Internet.

Children and the Internet

The Children's Internet Protection Act (pub. L. 106.554) requires that a library receiving federal funds must "have in place a policy of Internet safety for minors that includes the operation of a technology protection measure with respect to any computers with Internet access...." In compliance with this provision of federal law, the public libraries have installed a filtering mechanism on all computers and library-provided internet connections to protect young users from inappropriate material.

Parents are reminded that filtering is not foolproof. It diminishes the likelihood that searchers will inadvertently retrieve text or images that they may find offensive, but does not completely eliminate that possibility. Filters may also block access to sites that users would consider both inoffensive and useful. Parental supervision of young children searching the Internet is strongly advised.

Rights of Adults

Adults (those 18 and older) may request unfiltered access to the Internet for any purpose that does not violate the law or a member libraries' policies. The filter on an individual library-owned computer will be disabled in response to such a request. Library staff may not disable the filter on patron-owned laptops or other wireless access devices.

Right to Privacy

All library users have the right to expect that their information-seeking activities in the library are private and confidential with the understanding that no records of internet use are being retained. While the Lycoming County Library System member libraries do not retain internet usage records or history and works to protect patron's privacy, they are not responsible for ensuring the privacy of any information or data sent or received by patrons while using library equipment, including network or Wi-Fi.

Conditions and Terms of Use

1. Information available via the Internet may be protected by copyright or trademark; use of such information must not violate any copyright or trademark law.
2. Because the Internet allows access to ideas, information, and commentary from sources around the world, libraries cannot control its content. Therefore, individual users must accept responsibility for determining the validity and accuracy of information located on the Internet. The libraries are not responsible for any use made of information obtained from Internet resources.

3. The Internet and its available resources may contain material and ideas that are controversial and conflict with the personal beliefs of users. Parents or guardians, not library staff, are responsible for the information selected and/or accessed by their children.
4. Viewing of certain materials in the public library may be considered improper in time, place, or manner. Libraries reserve the right to terminate an Internet session that disrupts library services or involves user behavior that violates library policy.
5. Patrons may not use public library Internet connections for any commercial or for-profit purpose.
6. Lycoming County, Lycoming County Library System member libraries, member library board members and employees are not responsible for damages to patron-owned equipment including, but not limited to laptops, tablets, cell/smart phones, gaming devices, lot devices, etc. while using the libraries wireless Internet connection. This includes but is not limited to, damage caused by configuration changes, viruses, spyware, malware, or other malicious code received via the library's wireless connection.
7. Member libraries may charge for services such as scanning, faxing, printing and/or copying.
8. Mobile printing may be available through the library's wireless connection and varies based on member library capabilities.

Limitations

Some libraries do not provide access to subscription services, e-mail, or chat lines; use of such web-based services may be permitted at the discretion of the member library.

User Responsibilities

1. Users agree to this policy by accessing the Internet via library equipment, network, or Wi-Fi.
2. Users must observe time limits and other procedural guidelines set by individual libraries for use of Internet terminals.
3. Users are responsible for damage to equipment beyond what occurs with normal usage; hardware and software may not be abused, modified, or destroyed.

Staff Assistance

Library staff are capable of offering basic instruction on how to navigate the Internet or Windows Operating System. However, due to limited staffing and time constraints, patrons are encouraged to take the initiative and explore on their own. Staff cannot assist with anything using private data. Examples of such are job applications and forms for legal, government, banking, or medical purposes.

Approved by the Lycoming County Library System Board of Trustees, June 11 2024.