

Policy and Guidelines for Public Internet Access

The Merrimack Public Library offers direct, unfiltered access to the Internet and wireless Internet (WiFi) as a basic service and does not place restrictions on who may use the Internet at the library. This policy and its guidelines apply to the library's public access computers, the library's WiFi, and to patrons accessing these services.

DISCLAIMER:

- Library patrons use the public computers and the Internet at their own risk.
- The library's WiFi access is not a secure connection. WiFi users are responsible for protecting their own data. The library is not responsible for any damage to patron data that is being accessed with library equipment nor for any damage to patron devices plugged in to library electrical outlets, equipment, or connected to the library's public WiFi.
- The library cannot censor access to material nor protect users from information they find offensive or controversial.
- Not all sites on the Internet provide accurate, complete, or current information. Users should evaluate Internet sources just as they do printed publications. The library expressly disclaims any liability or responsibility arising from access to or use of information obtained through the Internet, or any consequences thereof.
- Patrons are responsible for anything purchased via the Internet and for payment of said items. The library will not be responsible for these costs and will not involve itself in the ordering of these materials.
- Patrons are responsible for damage to library hardware or software due to inappropriate actions taken while using the computers. Willful and malicious damage to equipment will result in suspension of library services and/or prosecution of criminal charges (NH RSA 202-A:24).

GUIDELINES:

Access to the Internet using the library's public computers will be provided during normal business hours; access to the library's WiFi is offered 24/7 and can be accessed from the parking lot when the library is closed. The same guidelines that apply to the library's Internet computers apply to those accessing WiFi on a library laptop or their personal device. Those accessing the library's public Internet connection are expected to use these resources in a responsible manner, consistent with the educational, informational, and recreational purposes for which they are provided.

- Internet access may be used for lawful purposes only. Patrons must obey all applicable federal, state, and local laws including, but not limited to, copyright, licensing, and content restrictions.
- Patrons shall not:

- View, print, distribute, display, send, or receive text or graphics that may be construed as obscene under Chapter 650 of the NH RSAs.
- View, print, distribute, display, send, or receive text or graphics that may be construed to be child pornography under Chapter 649 A or 649 B of the NH RSAs.
- Disseminate exhibit or display materials to minors that may be considered harmful to minors under Chapter 571 B of the NH RSAs.

USE OF THE INTERNET:

Internet users who have a Merrimack Library card will log in to a time-management software when they sit down at a computer. Internet users who do not have a Merrimack Library card can obtain a guest pass from the copier/print station or from Staff at the Public Service Desk. Users will be required to read and “Accept” the library’s Internet Policy before they can proceed.

- Sessions are limited to two hours unless no one else is waiting.
- Users may print pages to a printer for a fee (see the library’s current Fines & Fees Schedule). Printing for WiFi users is available via a third-party service under contract with the Library.
- Patrons age 11-17 are given priority to use the Internet computers in the Teen Room.
- Users may download material onto the computer’s hard drive for temporary use. The hard drives are automatically cleared by the time-management software every time the computer is restarted. The software will automatically restart the computer at the end of the user’s session.
- Users may download material from the library’s public computers onto their own storage media. The library does not guarantee that all forms of storage media will be compatible with our public computers, nor does it accept responsibility for damage to storage media that may arise from downloading files from a library computer.
- Storage media is available to purchase at the Public Service Desk.

The library reserves the right to terminate or restrict the user’s Internet privileges for abuse of these conditions or for unauthorized user of the library’s Internet connection.

Approved by the Merrimack Public Library Board of Trustees: June 19, 2003; July 16, 2003; November 15, 2006; April 12, 2011; March 26, 2013; September 17, 2013; September 20, 2016; November 17, 2020; April 16, 2024