

Bergenfield Public Library
INTERNET ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY

The Bergenfield Library provides free public access to the Internet in keeping with its role as a source for information, intellectual development and enrichment for the community. Bergenfield residents have priority on computers at all times. A valid library card is required. This Internet Acceptable Use Policy applies to users of library computers and users of the library's wireless system.

The Internet is an electronic highway connecting thousands of computers all over the world and millions of individual subscribers. With access to computers and people all over the world also comes the availability of materials that may be considered to be of questionable educational or recreational value in a public library setting.

The Library does not use filtering software and therefore does not prevent access to chat rooms, social network sites or gaming sites. These and other popular sites may contain language and images that are violent, sexually suggestive, age-inappropriate or otherwise disturbing.

The valuable information and interaction available on this worldwide network far outweighs the possibility that users may procure materials that are not consistent with the goals of the public library. All users are urged to exercise caution and common sense.

Acceptable/Unacceptable Use

1. Any use of the library's computers that serves to disrupt use by others is prohibited. Hardware or software shall not be destroyed, modified, or abused in any way. Such attempts will be viewed as criminal activity under applicable state and federal laws.
2. Malicious use of library computers for unauthorized access or to infiltrate a computer or computing system and/or damage files or software is prohibited.
3. Use of library computers for hate mail, threats to personal safety and other forms of harassment is prohibited. Downloading lewd or vulgar images or sound may be perceived as harassment or threatening to others and may result in termination of an Internet session.
4. The illegal installation of copyrighted software for use on public library computers is prohibited.
5. The library is a public building used by patrons of all ages and sensibilities. There should be no expectation of the same level of viewing privacy as would be enjoyed in the home.
6. Use of the library's computers to access or process obscene or inappropriate material, images or sound is prohibited.
7. Use of the library's computers for gambling is prohibited.

The Bergenfield Library does not control the information accessed and cannot be held responsible for the content, quality or accuracy of the information retrieved. In no event shall the Bergenfield Public Library be liable for any special, indirect or consequential damages or any damages whatsoever resulting from loss of use, data or profits, arising out of or in connection with the use or performance of information from this server.

The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, U.S. Code) governs making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material, including over the Internet. The person using this equipment is liable for any infringement.

Use of library computers for unlawful purposes could result in civil and criminal penalties.

The Library reserves the right to terminate an Internet session or to suspend computer privileges for failure to comply with the Acceptable Use Policy and procedures.

Computer privileges may be denied for any of the following reasons:

- For misuse of the Internet, including for illegal activities or for viewing pornographic materials;

- For creating a disturbance or otherwise interfering with the right of others to work or use the library, including staff;

- For uncooperative or disrespectful behavior to patrons or library staff, including profane or offensive language;

- For misuse or disregard of library materials or property, including, but not limited to, computer equipment.

The Library strongly encourages parents or guardians to discuss appropriate Internet use with their child, that is, which sites you prefer your child to use and/or sites with which you disagree. As a safety measure, children and young adults should be discouraged from posting personally identifying information on the Internet. Parents/guardians may want to instruct their child to use the Internet only for homework purposes when visiting the library independently.

Effective November 13, 2008, the library will no longer keep Internet permission forms on file. Each library card registration will include the following notice: "I understand that library cardholders have unfiltered access to the Internet." Parents/guardians signing library cards are asked to initial this statement to verify that they have read the statement. **Parents who do not wish to give their child permission to use the Internet in the library are responsible for retaining control over the child's library card.**