



INTERNET ACCESS & COMPUTER 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 policy applies to users of library computers and users of the library's wireless network.

Computers are available on a first come first serve basis. The Library reserves the right to establish procedures for implementing time limits and/or sign-ups. The Library maintains no record of individuals using the Internet.

DISCLAIMERS

The Library does not use filtering software and therefore does not prevent access to chat rooms, social media sites or gaming sites. These and other popular sites may contain language and images that are violent, sexually suggestive, age-inappropriate or otherwise disturbing. Users are cautioned that the Internet is an unregulated medium and the content and images may be inaccurate, biased, or offensive. Each individual must determine the appropriateness and usefulness of the information found. The Library is not responsible nor has any control over content.

The Library cannot and shall not guarantee the security and privacy of information transferred over the public network. Users are cautioned against the transmission of sensitive personal information such as financial, medical or legal data. The Library network is an open network and 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 public computers are used by many individuals throughout the day. Users are cautioned to log completely out of personal accounts or services. The Library is not responsible for hijacked accounts, passwords, or loss of other personal information and / or identity.

EXAMPLES OF UNACCEPTABLE USE

- 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.
- Malicious use of library computers for unauthorized access or to infiltrate a computer or computing system and/or damage files or software is prohibited.
- 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.
- The illegal installation of copyrighted software for use on public library computers is prohibited.
- 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.
- Use of the library's computers to access or process obscene or inappropriate material, images or sound is prohibited.
 - Use of the library's computers for gambling is prohibited.
 - 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 policies and procedures. Computer privileges may be denied for any of the following reasons:

- Misuse of the Internet, including for illegal activities or for viewing pornographic materials
- Creating a disturbance or otherwise interfering with the right of others to work or use the library, including staff
- Uncooperative or disrespectful behavior to patrons or library staff, including profane or offensive language
- Misuse or disregard of library materials or property, including, but not limited to, computer equipment.

MINORS USING LIBRARY COMPUTERS

The New Jersey Library Association affirms the right of all users to have unrestricted access to the Internet and acknowledges the right of parents to determine the level of Internet access for their minor children. 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.

As stated above, no filtering software has been installed on any Library computers and on the wireless network. Parents are cautioned that unsupervised children may see things that the parent finds objectionable. Parents or caregivers of minor children are expected to supervise their child's Internet sessions. The Library staff cannot be responsible for determining what is acceptable for children, but may intervene if a child violates general policies or procedures.

Internet stations in the Children's Room are solely for use of children up to and including Grade 5. Elementary school age children (Kindergarten-Grade 5) and younger must be accompanied by an adult or a responsible, mature caregiver (16 or older) when visiting the Library. Parents or guardians are solely responsible for what their children access via the Internet.

Children in Grades 6 through Grade 12 may use the Internet stations in the Young Adult Room, with the understanding that Library employees do not assume the role of a parent or caregiver in determining what is and is not acceptable to view. Only adults ages 18+ may use the internet stations in the Reference area.

As per the Library's Code of Conduct, if a child is found to be viewing inappropriate material, the Library staff reserves the right to end the session.

Approved by the Bergenfield Library Board of Trustees on April 11, 2024