

INTERNET ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY

October 2007

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Cumberland County Public Library (CCPL) is to provide access to information resources, services, and programs to assist the citizens of Cumberland County in fulfilling their civic, cultural, intellectual, and recreational endeavors. It is with this mission in mind that the library offers for public use computers with Internet access.

SELECTION OF FILTERING TECHNOLOGY

In compliance with the Code of Virginia 42.1-36.1, the Library shall select, install, and activate on all public computers with internet access “a technology protection measure to filter or block Internet access through public access computers to child pornography as defined in § 18.2-374.1:1, obscenity as defined in § 18.2-372, and, with respect to minors, materials deemed harmful to juveniles as defined in § 18.2-390,” (Code of VA). Selection shall be performed by the Library Director in consultation with County and/or School Technology personnel. Criteria for selection of a technology shall include effectiveness, appropriateness to the library’s mission, ability of library staff to implement and maintain the technology in accordance with State law, and affordability.

DISCLAIMER

The Internet is an enormous system of computer networks that connect with each other to share information. Some Internet sites may contain inaccurate, incomplete, outdated, controversial or offensive material. CCPL does not monitor and has no control over the information accessed through the Internet. CCPL assumes no responsibility for any damages, direct or indirect, arising from the use of its Internet connection. Users are responsible for the access points that they reach. Users are strongly encouraged to be critical consumers, and to evaluate information carefully.

The Internet may contain material that is inappropriate for viewing by children. The library is not in a position to monitor and supervise children’s use of the Internet. Restriction of a child’s access to the Internet is the responsibility of the parent/guardian. Parents of minor children must assume responsibility for their children’s use of the Internet through the library’s connection. However, in compliance with the Code of Virginia 42.1-36.1, all CCPL computers have installed and activated on them a software filter designed to block access to child pornography, obscenity, and, with respect to minors, materials deemed harmful to juveniles.

GUIDELINES FOR ACCEPTABLE USE OF THE INTERNET & LIBRARY COMPUTERS. VIOLATION OF ANY OF THESE GUIDELINES WILL RESULT IN THE SUSPENSION AND/OR CANCELLATION OF THE PRIVILEGE TO USE THE LIBRARY'S COMPUTERS AND MAY RESULT IN SUSPENSION OF ALL LIBRARY PRIVILEGES.

1. Users must sign in at the Circulation Desk. By signing in, the user agrees to comply with the Library's Acceptable Use Policy.
2. Computer use is offered in thirty (30) minute sessions on a first-come, first-served basis; each user is allowed one session--if there is no patron waiting for the service at the end of a session, the user can have another session, but once having had the service for 30 minutes the user must abandon use of the Internet if another patron requests use of the service.
3. Patrons may use the Internet for the receipt and transmission of electronic mail (e-mail) as long as they use a free e-mail service which will establish and maintain an account for them; the library is unable to manage e-mail accounts for any organizations or individuals.
4. Users agree not to incur any costs for the library through their use of the Internet service.
5. Users shall not create and/or distribute computer viruses over the Internet, nor use the computers or Internet for any illegal purposes, including but not limited to creation of, distribution of, or access to child pornography, obscenity, or, with respect to minors, material deemed harmful to juveniles.
6. Headsets are available to be checked out from the circulation desk for in-library use only.
7. Printing is available at a cost of twenty cents (\$0.20) per page. An exception is made for students, who may print up to 20 pages of school work free of charge; a 10-cent per page charge will be incurred after the first 20 pages.
5. Patrons may save files to floppy disks, CD-Rs, or jump (USB) drives. CD-Rs with cases may be purchased for \$1.00 at the Circulation Desk.
6. No more than one person per computer is permitted at or around the large computer tables at any time. No more than two persons are permitted at any single-computer station at any time; if two people choose to share a computer, they will together receive only one 30-minute block of time. In any case, all users of library computers must sign in on the computer-use sign-up sheet at the circulation desk.
7. If, for bona-fide research purposes, a patron requires access to websites that are blocked by the filtering software mentioned above, s/he may request that the filter be temporarily disabled. A member of the library staff will deactivate the filter or allow access to requested sites during the patron's internet session at that time. The filter will be completely restored upon the requesting patron's relinquishing the machine.

STAFF ASSISTANCE:

Library staff and volunteers will assist patrons with computer use as time permits. However, staff may not be available at all times and cannot be considered “experts”. Formal instruction may be provided at designated times.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF USERS:

Use of the computers and the Internet is a privilege, not a right, and inappropriate use will result in suspension, and eventually cancellation, of this privilege. The following uses are prohibited:

1. Tampering with, deactivation of, or interfering with the functioning of the internet filter or other software, or installation of personal software on the CCPL computer.
2. Tampering with computer hardware.
3. Changing any setting on the computer or printer,.
4. Violation of computer system integrity.
5. Violation of software license agreements and copyright laws.
6. Violation of another user’s privacy.
7. Use of sounds or visuals that might be disruptive to others.
8. Accessing, attempting to access, and/or downloading illegal material.
9. Accessing, attempting to access, and/or downloading by library patrons under the age of 18 material that is harmful to juveniles.
10. Any use in violation of the acceptable use guidelines detailed above.

Any person making unauthorized use of computers and the Internet in violation of applicable laws including, but not limited to, the Privacy Protection Act of 1974, the Computer Fraud and Abuse Act of 1986, the Computer Eradication Act of 1989, Interstate Transportation of Stolen Property, the Virginia Computer Crimes Act, Code of Virginia 42.1-36.1, and the Electronic Communication Privacy Act may be prosecuted.

The possession and distribution of obscene materials (see Code of Virginia, Section 18.2-374 et seq.) and child pornography (see Code of Virginia, Section 18.2-374 et seq.) are both illegal in the Commonwealth of Virginia. All library patrons are hereby notified that no library terminal shall be used to access illegal materials.

By signing up to use a computer at the Cumberland County Public Library, the patron agrees to abide by the terms of this policy.