

Altoona Area Public Library Internet Policy and Guidelines for Teen/YA Area Computers

The Internet computers in the teen area are provided as a free service to card-holding members of the Altoona Area Public Library. If there are fines on a card, a significant payment – at the discretion of the Executive Director – must be made toward the balance before one can use the Internet. Patrons must sign this Internet Use Contract and Guidelines form prior to using the Internet computers. The teen computers are for ages 12 through 18. **All patrons under age 18 must also have a parent/guardian permission form signed and on file.**

Time Limits

In fairness to all of our patrons, individuals are limited to a maximum of two hours of computer usage per day.

Minors

The Altoona Area Public Library cannot be responsible for offensive material that may appear on the Internet. An Internet user alone is responsible for the information that is chosen to view. It is a felony offense in the state of Pennsylvania "To display or cause to display any explicit sexual material on any viewing screen in such manner that the display is visible in any establishment where minors, as part of the general public, may be exposed to view all or any part of such materials." (Penna. Crimes Code - Sect. 5903.) Misuse of the computer, including customers' laptops using AAPL's wireless access, will result in the loss of computer privileges, potential loss of library privileges and possible prosecution. Such misuse includes, but is not limited to, viewing material which is obscene or "harmful to minors".

Patrons will not use the computer for illegal activities: sending spam; hacking into the library computer system or any other computer system; damaging or attempting to damage computer equipment or software; interfering with systems operations, integrity or security; gaining unauthorized access to another person's files; sending harassing messages to other computer users; altering or attempting to alter the library computer's settings; and violating copyright laws and software licensing agreements.

Parents, guardians, and caregivers are encouraged to work with their children to develop acceptable rules of Internet use. It is their responsibility to set standards and guidelines and to decide which library resources and Internet websites are appropriate for their children. The Library has neither the right nor the responsibility to act in place of a parent, guardian, or caregiver, and assumes no responsibility for the use of the Internet by minors.

The Library has materials available that address online safety and privacy for minors. Please ask for them at the Teen Services desk. You may also access Internet safety tips from the following websites: <https://sos.fbi.gov>, www.onguardonline.gov, or www.safeteens.com

Internet Filtering

The Library complies with all federal, state, and municipal laws governing the use of computers in libraries, including the guidelines established by the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA). As required by CIPA, in order to remain eligible for certain federal funding, the Library has installed commercial filtering software on all of its Internet-accessible computers. The filtering software protects against access to visual depictions of obscenity, child pornography, and in the case of persons under the age of 17 years, materials that are "harmful to minors".

Users should be aware, however that all currently available filtering software results in a degree of both "under-blocking" (i.e. permitting access to certain materials that falls within the foregoing categories) and "over-blocking" (i.e. denying access to certain constitutionally protected material that does not fall within the foregoing categories). The Library cannot and does not guarantee that the filtering software will block all obscenity, pornography, or materials that are harmful to minors. Nor can the Library guarantee that the filtering software will allow access to all sites that may have legitimate research or other value.

Ethics

The following ethical standards must be adhered to:

- No copyright-protected material may be copied
- Users must not do anything that will impede the use of the Internet by others or cause damage to Library equipment and/or software.
- Users will be liable for repair or replacement costs.
- Computers may not be used for illegal activities including, but not limited to, hacking, harassment, sale or use of prohibited substances.
- Users should not disclose personal information about another person without that person's permission. Minors must be careful not to disclose any personal information (address, phone number, etc.) without their parent's permission.
- Users will not access information and/or sites harmful to minors.

Not allowed: video chatting, torrent downloading, multi-player and complex gaming

Viruses

The library does what it can to keep our computer equipment virus free, however, we cannot be responsible for any viruses that may be transmitted via Internet files.

Use of equipment

Users may not turn equipment on or off, change settings or load personal programs onto the computers.

Saving Work

Flash drives may be brought to the library if the user intends to save information. We do not allow files to be saved on the hard drive of our computers. Ear buds are available for \$1.50 and flash drives are available for \$5.00 at the Adult Circulation Desk.

Printing

There is a fee per page for black and white or color printouts and this must be paid when printouts are picked up.

Failure to comply with these Internet guidelines could result in loss of Internet and/or Library privileges.

Signature Date

Parent/Guardian Signature Date