

Johnson City Public Library Internet Access Policy

Internet Access

Residents in the JCPL service area (Johnson City and Washington County) may access library computer services using a valid JCPL library card. Patrons with valid cards will not be denied access based on fines/fees amount. Individuals who do not qualify for a library card may obtain a Computer Center pass at the Adult Services desk.

Patrons are authorized to use their library card only and may not use the cards of others in addition to their own.

The internet offers access to a wealth of information that can be personally, professionally, and culturally enriching. However, the U. S. Congress and the courts have recognized that there is no single organization to govern, control, or select information for the internet. Along with much valuable information, the internet also contains information which may be inaccurate, outdated, controversial, or offensive. Information access points may change rapidly and unpredictably. Due to the constantly changing and expanding nature of technology, library staff may not be familiar with every aspect of the internet, electronic devices, and software programs.

The Johnson City Public Library cannot be held responsible for the content of the internet as the library has no control over this vast array of informational resources. The library specifically disclaims any warrant as to the information's accuracy, timeliness, authoritativeness, usefulness, or fitness for a particular purpose. The library will have no liability for direct, indirect, or consequential damages related to the use of information accessed through the library's internet service.

The library makes no guarantee of complete access to the internet from any computer work station. Internet resources may vary according to the primary services supported in each area or department.

The library will not monitor a user's internet session, except for length of time in order to ensure equal opportunity of access for everyone. The library will make a good faith effort to purge all patron originated information left on library computers. Information transmitted and received on the library's public computers is by no means guaranteed to be protected from interception by other parties inside or outside the library. Users are cautioned that library computers are located

in public areas where computer screens are visible to others, so they cannot be considered private. The user, or the parent/guardian of a minor user, is responsible for his or her internet session at all times. Library staff reserves the right to ensure compliance with this internet policy.

Technology Protection Measures

In compliance with the Children's Internet Protection Act of 2000, the library uses filtering software or other technology protection measures on library computers and all other personal devices connected to the library's network. Filters are required to prevent minors from accessing visual depictions that are obscene, child pornography, or harmful to minors.

The library makes no claim that its filtering software or any filtering software is foolproof.

Filtering software diminishes the likelihood that users will inadvertently retrieve text or images that they may find offensive but does not eliminate that possibility. Filters may block sites that users would consider both inoffensive and useful. Users aged 17 and older may ask a library staff member to disable the filters for bona fide research or other lawful purpose.

The library will have no liability for damages related to the operation of, or failure of, the filtering software, or for its circumvention by users.

Internet Safety/Child Safety on the Internet

Parents/guardians, not the library or its staff are responsible for the internet information accessed by their children under the age of 18. Parents/guardians should be aware that the only way to monitor their children's internet use is for the adult to be present at the computer. Parents are reminded that filtering software is not foolproof. At all times, while using the library or its internet access, children 10 and under must be accompanied by a parent/guardian or an adult caregiver.

User Responsibilities

All users of the internet at the library are expected to use this resource in a responsible and ethical manner, consistent with the library's educational and informational purposes, and to follow all internet related rules, regulations, and procedures established for its use including, but not limited to, those of the library.

Responsible use of the internet at the library includes:

- Complying with the library's posted Code of Conduct
- Using the library's computers for library designated purposes only
- Not abusing or misusing library computers or any other equipment; changes are not allowed to the setup or configuration of the software or hardware
- Not using someone else's library account to access the internet
- Respecting the sensibilities of others when accessing potentially offensive information and images.
- Refraining from illegal or unethical use of the internet, including the viewing of any material which depicts nudity, sexual contact, excess violence and which is harmful to minors per the Tennessee Code Annotated 39-17-911.

The library is not responsible for damage to users' storage medium or electronic devices or for any loss of data, damage, or liability that may occur from use of the library's computers.

The library provides free, unsecured, wireless internet access for public use. **The library does not provide technical support for privately owned personal electronic devices.** Security for personal wireless devices rests solely with the owner of the wireless device. Personal use of the library's public wireless access will conform to policies regulating other types of public internet access provided by the library.

Response to Violations

The library reserves the right to terminate an internet session that disrupts library services or that involves user behavior that violates this or any other library policy. Failure to comply with library policies may result in the temporary or permanent forfeiture of the user's privilege to access these computers or to use the library.

Procedures

The library staff will develop such supporting rules and procedures as are necessary to ensure the fair and reasonable use of library Internet access. This Internet Access Policy and a "Guide to Internet and Computer Use" will be available to users in the library and on the library's internet site.

Review and revision of this Internet Access Policy

This Internet Access Policy including any attachments will be reviewed periodically, approximately every three years, by the library staff and the library board. It may be revised only with the formal approval of the board.

Approved by the Board of Directors June 14, 2005
Revised November 13, 2018