



SECTION	POLICY #	SUBJECT
400 – Technology and Internet Access		Computers and Internet

Computers and Acceptable Use Policy for Internet Access

Newport News Public Library has computers to serve the needs of the community. Patrons must have a valid Newport News Public Library card in their own name and in good standing or purchase a visitor’s pass in order to use the public computers. Before each use of the computers, patron must read and acknowledge a statement indicating that they have read and understand the Acceptable Internet Use Policy. All users will verify acceptance of the Computer/Internet policy as part of the sign on to the computer.

The Newport News Public Library is not responsible for damage to the user’s devices, computer, or for any loss of data, damage, or liability that may be incurred from the patron’s use of the Library’s computers.

Acceptable Use Policy for Internet Access

Acceptable use of the City of Newport News Public Library’s Internet access is subject to the laws, regulations and ordinances of the United States of America, the Commonwealth of Virginia, and the City of Newport News. Nothing contained herein shall be construed to refute, abridge, or otherwise negate the effect and full force of any such statute.

Access to the Internet as provided by the City of Newport News Public Library imposes certain responsibilities, limitations, and obligations upon the recipient of that access. Acceptable use demonstrates respect for intellectual property, ownership of data, system security mechanisms, and individuals’ rights to privacy, freedom from intimidation, harassment, and unwarranted intrusion. Any use of Library equipment to access material that deals with obscenity or child pornography is expressly prohibited.

Nothing in the foregoing shall limit the City of Newport News in prosecution of individuals or the attempt to recover damages including specific remedies contained in USA Patriot Act 2001, the Virginia Computer Crimes Act, and the following Federal Acts:

- The Privacy Act of 1974
- The Privacy Protection Act of 1980
- The Computer Fraud and Abuse Act of 1986
- Statutes addressing the Interstate Transport of Stolen Property
- The Electronic Communications Privacy Act
- The U.S. Copyright Act

Unacceptable uses include but are not limited to, altering or attempting to alter Library computers or programs in any way (including Library set-up and files), violating or attempting to bypass security of the computer systems; violating copyrights, patent protection, or licensing agreements; unauthorized disclosure, use, and dissemination of personal information regarding minors; and accessing or attempting to access material that is obscene, contains child pornography, or is otherwise unlawful.

All publicly accessible computers with Internet access shall be equipped with a technology protections measure to filter or block Internet access through such computers to child pornography, obscenity, and, with respect to minors, materials deemed harmful to minors as defined by § 18.2-390 of the Code of Virginia. Such filtering measures shall remain in effect unless an adult patron has requested unfiltered Internet access for bona fide research or other lawful purpose.

Internet Access

The Library is not responsible and cannot be held responsible for the variety of materials in a multitude of representations on the Internet.

The Library will accommodate requests for unfiltered Internet access to website addresses by patrons and staff.

Software and Viruses

The Library shall provide selected software packages for business, educational, or recreational use and print/copy services. The software provided by the Library for public use is protected under U.S. Copyright Law. Patrons are forbidden to make copies of these programs for any reason or purpose (Title 17 US Code).

Patrons may not install their own software for use on the Library computers. Only authorized software that has been purchased by the City may be used on Library computers.

Although the Library uses a virus-checker on the Library's computers, this does not protect users from the chance of getting a virus. Software downloaded from the Internet may contain viruses or other malicious software.

Saving original data files on the Library's hardware is not permitted. Patrons saving information from any of the programs on the computer or the Internet may save to a portable storage device only. Data storage devices are available for purchase. Library is not responsible for items left in or at the public computers. Data storage devices found will be discarded after 24 hours.

Computers

The computers are available on a first-come, first-serve basis unless they have been previously reserved. Reservations are taken on designated computers at all branches and will be accepted up to one week in advance. Only one reservations will be taken at a time and the next reservation will be taken at the completion of the previous reservation. Reservations will not be held for more than fifteen minutes past the reserved starting time.

Main Street, Grissom, and Bailey Libraries have express computers for walk-ins only (30-minute time limit).

Computer availability may be affected by maintenance and scheduling issues. Depending on availability, patrons may be limited for up to two hours.

AWE early literacy computers located in the children's area are available on a first-come, first-served basis. No reservations will be taken on these computers. There is a one-hour time limit. An additional hour may be granted if there is not a waiting list.

Computers located in the children's area are for use by juvenile patrons with a valid Library card or Visitor Pass. Children under 9 years of age must be supervised by a responsible caregiver. A "responsible caregiver" must be 9 years of age or older.

Suspension of Use Privileges

A Library patron who is suspended for violations of the Acceptable Use Policy for Internet Access shall also be suspended from using any other Internet access computer provided by the Library system at any location. Any violations listed below will result in suspension of patron's privileges.

- Any unacceptable use of Library equipment including but not limited to, altering or attempting to alter Library computers or programs in any way (including Library set-up and files), violating or attempting to bypass security of the computer systems; violating copyrights, patent protection, or licensing agreements; and accessing or attempting to access material that is obscene, deals with child pornography, or is otherwise unlawful.
- Any abuse or misuse of the computer hardware or software. This includes copying Library software, the installation of unauthorized software, or changing Library established computer set-up programs.
- Harassment of others or violation of their privacy. Suspension of use privileges for other reasons shall be as determined by the Library staff based on Newport News Public Library policy or law.

Patrons who are aggrieved by consequences imposed as a result of this policy may appeal to Library Administration.

APPROVAL
