

Internet Use Policy

Updated by the Library Board April 2022

General Policy

The purpose of this policy is to affirm the library's role in providing public access to the Internet to clarify patron responsibilities associated with Internet use in the library. Internet use in the library means using the library's network to access the Internet either on library workstations or through a wireless connection.

The Petersburg Public Library provides access to a broad range of information resources including those available through the Internet. The library makes this service available as part of its mission to provide free and open access to information of all types in a wide range of formats for library users of all ages and backgrounds. The library upholds the right of every individual to have access to constitutionally protected material, in accordance with the library's Intellectual Freedom Policy.

Library staff will not supervise juveniles' use of the Internet. As with other library materials, restriction or supervision of a juvenile's access to the Internet is the responsibility of the parent or legal guardian.

The library makes every effort to provide a stable and effective Internet service for its customers. However, Internet resources may be unavailable due to network or service issues beyond the library's control. The library reserves the right to limit internet usage to accommodate customer demand.

Filtering

The library utilizes filtering software on all library workstations and devices using the library's network. The library receives federal funding in support of public Internet access. Federal law requires libraries receiving such funding to install filters (software which blocks access to Internet material containing visual depictions that are obscene, contain child pornography or are harmful to minors) on its Internet computers. Library computers are in compliance of state and federal laws (HB 04-1004 Internet Protection in Public Libraries; C.R. S. 24-90-601-606 and Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA), Pub. L. No. 106-554).

Unlawful Use of Library Computers

The library prohibits any unlawful use of the Internet by staff or users. Users who engage in unlawful use of the Internet on library workstations and property or who harass other users may be prosecuted and may lose borrowing privileges. The library prohibits: attempts to download or make copies of unauthorized files, attempts to hack, or crack library or remote services, displays of website images which are pornographic or defined by Federal Law as obscene.

Privacy

The library cannot guarantee computer viewing privacy, nor can the library guarantee the privacy of information sent or received over the Internet. Users of library workstations are asked to use resources appropriately and respect the privacy of others using nearby workstations. To preserve user privacy, the library will never share individual personal information gathered by the library, unless ordered by subpoena from a valid court or legal authority. If a court order is presented, the staff or volunteer should refer server to the Library Director. The Library Director should contact the Borough attorney for legal advice and permission to release records.