

Hellertown Area Library  
Internet and Computer Use Policy

Access to different types of information for the primary purposes of education, research and education is integral to fulfilling HAL's mission to promote lifelong learning.

By logging on to a Hellertown Area Library computer or accessing the Hellertown Area Wi-Fi, you are agreeing to abide by the terms listed below in addition to adhering to all other library policies and procedures.

Resources will primarily be made available to citizens within the library's service area and secondarily to those outside the library's service area. These resources include computers for word processing, catalog access, and Internet access. The library provides wireless access to the Internet to those patrons whose computers are wireless. All guidelines remain the same for wireless access.

All patrons must present a personal HAL library card that is current and in good standing to use the computers. Visitors may use the computers as a guest three times. Guests must fully fill out the sign in sheet to access computers.

Children under the age of twelve must be accompanied by a parent/guardian to use the Internet. Library staff are not responsible for children's computer usage or information accessed on the internet. Parents/guardians are responsible for monitoring their children's usage and behavior.

In compliance with the CIPA Act, internet stations are filtered as per 47 U.S.C. 254(h) and (l). If unfiltered access is needed, please see a librarian. There may be a delay in removing the filter depending on the availability of technological support.

Users should be aware that the use of public computers and the internet are not private or secure mediums, and that third parties may be able to obtain information regarding the user's activities. Users should also be aware that library staff may monitor use of the computers for the limited purpose of ensuring compliance with this Policy, and hereby consent to such monitoring. The library is not responsible for any loss or liability that may occur as a result of the disclosure of financial or other personal information over the library's computers and/or Wi-Fi.

The user is responsible for logging out of all applications and the removal of all personal information at the end of every computer and/or internet session.

Patrons should report any computer problems to Library staff and must not attempt maintenance on Library computers, including unplugging, disconnecting, powering on, powering off, and/or detaching and PC hardware or components.

At times, the computers and internet may be unavailable due to training, workshops, maintenance, or outages. The library apologizes for any inconvenience.

No information may be saved to the library's computers. Personal storage media must be used. The library is not responsible for damage to personal storage media while using the library's workstations.

The library is not responsible for data that may be lost due to power outages, equipment failure, viruses, or malware. Patrons may not download or run software not installed by the library.

The user agrees to assume any and all liability for the cost of the repair or replacement in the event of loss due to theft, damage, negligence or misuse of library equipment.

Patrons shall comply with all federal, state, and local laws including but not limited to:

Library patrons may not use the library's Internet access to view, print, distribute, display, send or receive images, or graphics of material that violates laws relating to child pornography.

Library patrons must adhere to all copyright laws and may not copy or distribute materials (e.g. with the use of file sharing software) without the permission of the owner. Patrons who do so may be subject to criminal and civil liability.

Library staff are available to assist with computer and internet needs to the best of their ability. Please be aware that staff are not trained IT professionals and that staff availability is limited. Library staff may not answer questions of a financial, legal, or medical nature. Staff may not fill out online forms or make online purchases for patrons.

Black and white printing is available for twenty-five cents per side page. Color printing is available for fifty cents per side. Please be patient as network printing may take several minutes. The patron is responsible for paying for all printing.

The computer area closes 20 minutes prior to the library closing time.

No food or beverages are permitted in the computer areas.

To ensure a positive environment for all users, patrons listening to audio must use headphones. Please refrain from cell phone use while using the computers.

The library reserves the right to terminate a computer/internet session and suspend library privileges of anyone who violates the library's computer use policies without notice.

Approved by HAL Board March 28, 2023