

Acushnet Public Library
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Public Computer Use Policy

Purpose

The Acushnet Public Library strives to develop collections and services that meet the informational, educational, recreational and intellectual needs of the community. It is within this context that the Library offers access to the Internet and computers.

Library Responsibility

The Library supports intellectual freedom and the American Library Association's interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights as it applies to Access to Electronic Information, Services and Networks. Library staff cannot control the availability or content of Internet sites. All patrons must cautiously analyze data and information sources, whether printed or electronic, before accepting their validity. The responsibility of the Library is to provide access to information, not to endorse it. Library staff does not monitor a patron's computer or Internet use, except for length of use in order to ensure equal opportunity of access for everyone. The patron is responsible for his or her Internet session at all times. A parent or caregiver is expected to monitor, supervise, and guide their child's use of the Internet.

Guidelines for Use

Patrons who have a valid SAILS library card with fines or charges not in excess of \$10 are entitled to use the Library's computers. All patrons must accept this Computer Use Agreement, which stipulates that the patron has read and agrees to abide by the Library's Public Computer Use Policy. Patrons must have a valid Library card before logging onto a computer. Guest passes will only be issued to non-residents, who must present a driver's license. Guest passes will not be issued for laptops. Online gaming is not permitted. Only internet-based email (i.e.: gmail, yahoo) is allowed.

Time Limits for Computers

Use of the computers is on a first-come, first-served basis. The Library utilizes time management software. Once a patron is logged-in, the software will implement a 2-hour time limit per day. Laptops will be checked out to patrons and will be due back at the Information Desk within two hours. There is no time management software on laptops.

Personal Software and Storage

Personal software programs may not be used on any of the public computers. If patrons wish to save files, they may use their own storage device. The Library is not responsible for damage to a patron's storage device or for any loss of data, damage or liability that may occur from a patron's use of the Library's computer network (wired or wireless).

Fees

The cost for printing from all computers is .10 for B&W and .25 for color. Double-sided prints count as two printed pages.

Patron Responsibility

The Library requires that patrons using computers, wired or wireless, do so within the guidelines of acceptable use. Exposing Library staff or other patrons to images which may be deemed objectionable or obscene will result in the revocation of Library privileges. Library staff is authorized to terminate any patron's session or revoke a patron's computer privileges if a patron fails to comply with this policy. Illegal acts involving Library resources may also be subject to prosecution by local, state, or federal authorities. Additional unacceptable activities include use for any purpose that results in the harassment of other users; destruction of, damage to, or unauthorized alteration of the Library computer equipment, software, or network security procedures; use in any way that violates a Federal or State law; use in any way that violates licensing and payment agreements between the Acushnet Public Library and network or database providers; unauthorized duplication of copy protected software or violation of software license agreements; violation of system security; and behaving in a manner that is disruptive to others.

Staff Assistance

The Library staff attempts to keep all computers up and running and will try to answer very basic questions about the operation of the computers. Staff cannot provide in-depth training on the computers or on any specific application on the computers. Library staff is not responsible or liable for assisting users who are conducting e-commerce from the Library's Internet computers. Library staff may not access a user's personal accounts on the user's behalf.

Copyright

Patrons accessing the Internet via their own equipment (e.g., patron laptop computers) or via library equipment or resources are subject to applicable State and Federal laws, including copyright laws. Patrons may be liable for violating copyright laws.

Liability

The Acushnet Public Library is not responsible for damages, indirect or direct, arising from a library patron's use of Internet information resources.

Laptops

Please see the Laptop Loan Program Policy for information regarding library laptop usage.

Approved by the Library Board of Trustees, 2/3/10

Revised by the Library Board of Trustees, 7/9/15

Revised by the Library Board of Trustees, 5/10/16

Revised by the Library Board of Trustees, 7/26/18

Revised to accommodate COVID-19 Guidelines by the Library Board of Trustees, 9/15/2020

Returned to pre-Covid policy 7/20/2021