

Allegan District Library Internet Acceptable Use Policy

The Allegan District Library (ADL) provides public access to the Internet as part of its mission to deliver services and materials to meet the information needs of its customers.

Access

- The Library provides access to Internet resources equally to all library patrons and upholds and affirms the right of each individual to have access to material in accordance with the American Library Association's Library Bill of Rights.
- Patrons are prohibited from using the Library's network for illegal activity, or to access and/or display illegal materials or websites containing images and videos of adult content that would generally be considered obscene or pornographic in nature.
- Library computers and networks may not be used for any purpose that violates federal, state, or local laws. Prohibited use includes, but is not limited to, "hacking" or otherwise attempting unauthorized use of the Library networks; attempting to interfere with or disrupt other users; attempting to evade security measures; invading the privacy of other users; violating software license agreements; or sending harassing, threatening or libelous messages or material.
- ADL neither has control over resources offered through the Internet nor has complete knowledge of what is on the Internet. Information on the Internet may be reliable and current or may be inaccurate, out of date, and unavailable at times. Some content may be offensive. Library users access the Internet at their own discretion. The Internet is not governed by any entity so there are no limits or checks on the kind of information contained there. Only a user can decide on the accuracy, completeness and currency of the content.

Security & Privacy

- The ADL will not release information on the use of specific Internet resources by members of the public except as required by law or as necessary for the proper operation of the Library.
- The Library is not responsible for the privacy practices or security of any web sites accessed by patrons.
- The Library accepts no liability for any loss of privacy or data patrons may experience, or any damage or harm arising from such loss.

Internet Filtering

- Library Internet access, including the Wi-Fi network, is filtered for websites containing images and videos of adult content that would generally be considered obscene or pornographic in nature in accordance with the Children's Internet Protection Act, 47 USC §254.
- No Internet filter is 100% effective, meaning that some sites that should be blocked may not be, while other sites that should not be blocked by filters could be blocked.

- A patron who is at least 17 years of age may request the unblocking of a specific website on a computer used by that patron, provided that he/she will use the unfiltered computer for bonafide research or other lawful purposes.
- Patrons who encounter sites that they believe should be blocked or who are unable to access sites that they believe should not be blocked may request a review of the site in question.

Internet Safety

- Subject to other demands on staff time for library services, the Library staff will make a good faith effort to monitor periodically the use of Library computers by minors. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Library holds the parents or legal guardians responsible for their minor children's use of the Internet in light of the fallibilities of filters and other demands on Library staff time.
- To address the issue of the safety and security of minors when using electronic mail, chat rooms, and other forms of direct electronic communications, as well as unauthorized disclosure of, use, and dissemination of personal identification regarding minors, the Library urges minors to follow the safety guidelines below:
 - Never give out identifying information such as home address, school name, or telephone number.
 - Let parents or guardians decide whether personal information such as age or financial information should be provided online.
 - Never arrange a face-to-face meeting with someone through a computer without parent or guardian approval.

Public Internet Access with Library-Owned Equipment

- ADL reserves the right to limit patron Internet use sessions on Library-owned equipment.
- Library staff may designate and restrict use of computer equipment.

Public Wireless Internet Access

- The ADL provides access to the Internet via a wireless network (Wi-Fi) for patrons to use with their own personal computing equipment and other mobile devices.
- Wi-Fi access provided by the library is filtered for images and videos containing adult content that would generally be considered obscene or pornographic in nature. Wi-Fi access is unsecured. Anti-virus, security and privacy protection are the responsibility of the patron.
- Patrons using Library provided Wi-Fi must comply with this Library Board Policy and with any additional rules published in conjunction with this policy.
- Patrons are responsible for having the proper hardware, software and network settings on their wireless device to connect to the Library provided Wi-Fi.
- The Library is not responsible for any theft, damage or misuse of patrons' computing devices or peripherals and other mobile devices while the devices are in use in the Library.

Compliance

- Failure to comply with this Policy, or misuse of the Library's networks or computers, including patrons' personal laptops and other mobile devices connected to ADL Wi-Fi, may result in the loss of computer access privileges, potential loss of library privileges and possible criminal prosecution.
- Although the Library generally shall not retain a record of a patron's use of a Library computer beyond 24 hours, the Library may retain such a record for any investigation and determination of a potential or actual violation of this Policy (including appeals).
- In particular, and without limiting the foregoing, Library staff may produce a screen shot of a Library computer for evidentiary purposes if a Library staff member has a reasonable suspicion that a patron is using the computer in violation of this Internet Use and Safety Policy. Any record of a patron's use, including a screen shot, shall be retained by the Library only so long as appropriate for any investigation and determination regarding a potential or actual violation. By accepting this Policy prior to using a Library computer, a patron is consenting to monitoring of the patron's use of the Library computer (including screen shots).