

INTERNET AND PUBLIC COMPUTER ACCEPTABLE USE

The Library's computers allow customers to search the Internet and a variety of electronic resources that offer global access to ideas, information and commentary beyond the Library's collection.

Access to Internet Resources

Brown County Library provides free public access to the Internet as an informational, educational and recreational resource for library customers of all ages and backgrounds. Selection policies which serve to govern the library's purchase of written materials may not apply to material accessed electronically. Access to the Internet does not imply library endorsement of any material found. Information and sites on the Internet may not be accessible due to filters provided by the Brown County Technology Services. Information about the criteria used by filtering software is provided in Appendix A. The Library expects that all use of electronic information resources such as the Internet will be responsible and ethical, consistent with the purpose for which these resources are provided.

Using Library Computers

While respecting individual users' right to privacy, Library staff reserves the right to monitor use of Internet and computer workstations. Staff may ask users to discontinue using Library equipment if they observe any activity which they deem unacceptable. Failure to comply with this policy may result in loss of computer privileges and/or loss of Library privileges.

- A Brown County Library card in good standing is required for WI residents wishing to use a computer.
- Guest passes may be purchased.
- The computer must be promptly surrendered when requested by Library staff.
- Charges apply for all prints from public computers.
- Time limits for computer use may vary according to level of demand.
- Computers in the Children's Departments at the Central Library and the Weyers-Hilliard Branch Library are intended for use by children and their accompanying caregivers.

Misuse includes but is not limited to:

- Sending, receiving or displaying text or graphics that violate federal, state or local laws or regulations or which may reasonably be construed by Library staff as offensive to the public.
- Mishandling, damaging or tampering with computer equipment, software or settings.
- Violating copyright laws and software licensing agreements.
- Installing or downloading software.
- Circumventing filtering software or other security measures in place.
- Misrepresenting oneself as another user.
- Refusing or ignoring a staff person's request to give up a computer.

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Responsible Use

Brown County Library recognizes that it is not possible for staff to control specific information children and youth may locate on the Internet. In compliance with the Children’s Internet Protection Act (CIPA), Brown County Library has installed filtering software designed to prevent access to obscene materials and child pornography. The Library cannot and does not guarantee that the filtering software will block all obscenity, child pornography or materials that are harmful to children. Users should be aware that Internet filtering installed for CIPA compliance is not a substitute for parent, guardian or caregiver involvement and supervision. Subject to the above restrictions, it is the responsibility of the user (or the parent, guardian or caregiver) to determine what is appropriate.

Wireless Internet Connections

Free wireless Internet access (WiFi) is available at all Brown County libraries. Customers who have personal electronic devices (laptops, PDAs, hand-held games, etc.) with wireless Internet cards may be able to access a wireless connection from inside or around the perimeter of the libraries offering WiFi. Library rules and policies regarding Internet use apply to wireless access. In addition:

- Library staff is unable to provide technical assistance.
- The Library cannot guarantee Internet speed or quality of the connection.
- The Library’s wireless network is not secure. Virus, security and privacy protection are not provided by the Library and are the responsibility of the customer.
- The Library assumes no responsibility for damage, theft or loss of personal equipment, software, data, files or other personal property used in or around Library facilities.
- Wireless printing from library laptops is available.