

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 upon request. 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 are available.
- 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.

Responsible Use

It is the policy of Brown County Library to: (a) prevent user access over its computer network to, or transmission of, inappropriate material via Internet, electronic mail, or other forms of direct electronic communications; (b) prevent unauthorized access and other unlawful online activity; (c) prevent unauthorized online disclosure, use, or dissemination of personal identification information of minors; and (d) comply with the Children's Internet Protection Act [Pub. L. No. 106-554 and 47 USC 254(h) and (l)].

INTERNET AND PUBLIC COMPUTER ACCEPTABLE USE – Page 2

Brown County Library recognizes that it is not possible for staff to control specific information children and youth may locate on the Internet. To the extent practical, technology protection measures (or “Internet filters”) shall be used to block or filter Internet, or other forms of electronic communications, access to inappropriate information. Specifically, as required by the Children’s Internet Protection Act, blocking shall be applied to visual depictions of material deemed obscene or child pornography, or to any material deemed harmful to minors. Subject to staff supervision, technology protection measures may be disabled for adults or, in the case of minors, minimized only for bona fide research or other lawful purposes.

To the extent practical, steps shall be taken to promote the safety and security of users of Brown County Library online computer network when using electronic mail, chat rooms, instant messaging, and other forms of direct electronic communications. Specifically, as required by the Children’s Internet Protection Act, prevention of inappropriate network usage includes: (a) unauthorized access, including so-called ‘hacking,’ and other unlawful activities; and (b) unauthorized disclosure, use, and dissemination of personal identification information regarding minors.

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:

- The Library cannot guarantee Internet speed or quality of the connection.
- 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 personal devices and library laptops is available.

Education, Supervision and Monitoring

It shall be the responsibility of all members of the staff to educate, supervise and monitor appropriate usage of the online computer network and access to the Internet in accordance with this policy and the Children’s Internet Protection Act.

Procedures for the disabling or otherwise modifying any technology protection measures shall be the responsibility of Brown County Library IT Manager or a designated representative.