



Internet & Computer Use Policy

Approved: March 8, 2007

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I. Purpose

The West Fargo Public Library (the Library) provides Wi-Fi Internet, computers, printer, copier, scanner, and other devices to the public. These services are designed to acknowledge the fundamental importance of equal access to the internet, technology, and other equipment in modern society.

II. Principles

- In accordance with the West Fargo Public Library's mission, the equipment, and services provided by the West Fargo Public Library are intended to help patrons achieve their goals, explore their passions, and develop social connections.
- Violation of the policies and regulations that govern the use of the Library's internet resources may result in suspension or loss of the privilege to use these resources. Any illegal activity involving the Library's internet resources or equipment will be subject to prosecution by the appropriate authorities. The Library reserves the right to take appropriate action to ensure compliance with this policy.

III. Eligibility

- Any West Fargo Public Library patron may access the public computers with their library card.
- Guest passes are available as a courtesy to patrons who do not have a library card.
- The Library does not deny access to public computers on the basis of age, nor will library staff monitor children's access to the internet.
 - Youth patrons must adhere to the [Unattended Children Policy](#) when using the Library.

IV. CIPA Compliance

The Library complies with the federal Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) which requires the use of filtering software on public computers to limit children's access to material that is (a) obscene; (b) child pornography; or (c) harmful to minors.

Filtering software may not block all material users might find offensive.

Adults, defined by the law as over 17, may choose to use unfiltered computers for bona fide research or other lawful purposes. An authorized City of West Fargo staff member may disable the filtering software if the above criteria are met.

V. Copyright

As a patron, the ability to post or link to copyrighted material is governed by United States copyright law. The Library reserves the right to delete or disable any post or link that, in the judgment of library staff, violates copyright law. In accordance with 17 USC S 512 (i)(1)(A), the library may terminate a patron's access to the system or network for disrespect of the intellectual property rights of others, or for repeat infringements of copyright. The Library has adopted this policy and will make all reasonable efforts to enforce it in appropriate circumstances

VI. Terms of Use

Any use of a Library computer or internet constitutes the acceptance of the Terms of Use.

The Library requires that any user of the Library's public computers or Internet agree to the following:

- Use resources for educational, information, and recreational purposes only: not for unauthorized, illegal, or unethical purposes.
- Respect the privacy of others by not misrepresenting oneself as another user; by not attempting to modify or gain access to files, passwords, or data belonging to others; by not seeking unauthorized access to any computer system or damaging or altering software components of any network or database.
- Respect the privacy of others using the Library's computers by not interfering with their use.
- Respect copyright law, which governs the reproduction, including digital copies, of copyrighted materials.
- Acknowledge that the Library is not responsible for any consequences of the patron providing personal, financial, or other confidential information on Library computers.
- Recognize Library staff can only provide limited computer assistance. Library staff cannot fill out online forms for patrons. Library staff do not provide financial, legal, or medical advice.
- Adhere to the Patron Code of Conduct Policy.
- Utilize headphones to listen to music, view videos, or play video games with sound.
- Internet and computer users may not:
 - Send, receive, or display text or graphics that may reasonably be construed as obscene or disturb or disrupt the library experience of other patrons. Viewing or sending child pornography is a federal offense, and police will be called.
 - Make any permanent changes to software or hardware. Patrons may use flash drives or other personal storage devices; however, the Library is not responsible for any damage or loss of information that may result from their use.
 - Physically damage, vandalize, disconnect, or otherwise modify computers or associated equipment.
 - Exceed time limits established by the Library nor make any attempt to bypass time management software on the Library's computers to gain additional computer time or access.
 - Consume beverages or food near the Library's public computers or equipment.
 - Make any attempt to bypass software on Public Access Catalog computers to gain full computer access.
- Acknowledge a violation of this policy may result in suspension of privileges, prosecution, and/or fees for any damage to the workstation or other equipment.

VII. Public Printing

Printing is available from all public computers and through wireless printing services for a fee.

The Library will only issue refunds for printing if the machine produced a blurred, black, or otherwise unreadable copy or if the coin bill machine consumes cash or change without producing the printed items.

Reference the [Circulation Policy](#) for all costs associated with public printing.

VIII. Referenced Policies and Resources

This policy is subject to all federal, state, and local laws and policies including, but not limited to:

- WFPL Board. [Circulation Policy](#)
- WFPL Board. [Library Cards Policy](#)
- WFPL Board. [Patron Code of Conduct Policy](#)
- WFPL Board. [Unattended Children Policy](#)
- U.S. Copyright Office. "Fair Use - FL-102." copyright.gov. <http://www.copyright.gov/fls/fl102.html>
Accessed January 3, 2011. Page inactive April 2015
- United States v. American Library Ass'n, Inc. No. 02-361 (June 23, 2003)
- Federal Communications Commission – Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA).
<https://transition.fcc.gov/cgb/consumerfacts/cipa.pdf>