

Computers/Internet

The Noble County Public Library (Library) provides access to many electronic resources with access to the Internet which contains a wide variety of material and opinions from varied points of view. Many web sites and applications contain valuable and timely information; however, just as many contain material that is inaccurate, defamatory, illegal or offensive. The use of Library technology and equipment is a privilege and violating this policy may result in loss of Library privileges at all locations.

Library staff reserves the right to check all workstations of suspicious/inappropriate activity.

The Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) requires that a library adopt an Internet safety policy that addresses five issues pertaining to minors (any person younger than 18-years-of-age). The policy must address:

- access to "inappropriate matter";
- safety and security when using e-mail, chat rooms and other forms of direct electronic communication;
- unauthorized access, including hacking and other unlawful online activities;
- unauthorized disclosure of personal identification information; and
- measures designed to restrict access to harmful materials.

While the Library attempts, through filtering software, to prevent direct access to materials that would not be generally acceptable in a public library, it is technically impossible to prevent access to all objectionable sources. Filtering software occasionally blocks acceptable sites. Patrons may request help accessing these sites for legitimate purposes but there is no guarantee that the software can be overridden. Filtering software will not be disabled for users who are minors. Furthermore, it is the responsibility of parents/guardians to monitor and guide their own children in the use of the Library computers and the Internet. Parents and children are encouraged to read Netsmartz.org Safety Tips and to explore the additional resources at Netsmartz.org, a resource for all ages.

The Library also provides public wireless (wifi) access to the Internet. Users of the Library wifi are subject to the terms of this policy. ***The Library cannot guarantee the privacy or safety of data and communications while using either wired or wireless services.*** Patrons need to be aware that wireless networks are inherently insecure and it is strongly recommended that they secure their computers with firewall software and data encryption.

The Library makes no warranties of any kind, neither expressed nor implied, for the Internet access it is providing. The Library is not responsible for the accuracy, nature, or quality of information gathered through Library-provided Internet access. Patrons agree to hold the Library harmless and agree to indemnify the Library from any and all liability resulting from the privilege of accessing the Internet through the Library.

Unacceptable Use

The NCPL is required by law to set and enforce rules and regulations concerning the use of Internet Access. The Director has the authority to cancel or deny access to anyone who is identified as a security risk or violates any of the rules and regulations of this policy. The following intentional actions are considered unacceptable, and in some cases, illegal, and may result in loss of computer resource privileges, library privileges, and/or prosecution by local, state or federal authorities.

- accessing, transmitting, uploading, downloading, or distributing material or language that is pornographic, abusive, defamatory, sexually explicit, obscene, child pornography, harmful to minors, or any material that is intended to annoy, harass or alarm another person;
- engaging in any illegal activities using library computers or networks;
- vandalizing, damaging, modifying or disabling library computers, networks, software, electronic resources or any library property, including installing and/or modifying any software on library computers;
- attempting to gain unauthorized access to any computing, information, or communication devices;
- unauthorized copying of copyright or other protected material;
- intentional violation of another person's privacy;
- using another person's library card to gain Internet access;
- disrupting others' use of computer resources in any way,
- any other activities deemed unsuitable.