

INTERNET USE POLICY

PURPOSE:

In support of the Albany Public Library's 2018-2020 Strategic Plan goal “to enhance the Library's space, tools, and resources as a platform for community learning, creativity, and engagement,” access to the Internet and electronic databases is provided to our patrons. This policy addresses access and use of Internet and network resources provided by the Library, including our WIFI network.

POLICY:

In offering Internet access, the Library takes responsibility only for the information provided on our website. The Library does not have control over information that can be accessed over the Internet. The Library is not responsible for the content of the Internet. The Library is not able to ensure confidentiality or protect against illegal use of the Internet. Nevertheless, illegal use of the Internet, or any use to injure or harass others, is prohibited by the Library's Behavior Policy and if the Library becomes aware of such a violation, the Library reserves the right to limit or deny a patron's access to our computer resources, including the Internet through Library computers.

Although the Internet offers access to many valuable local, national, and international sources of information, not all sources are accurate, complete, current, or appropriate for all users. In keeping with the American Library Association's Library Bill of Rights, it is the policy of the Library not to limit access to any resource by any segment of the community. Under certain circumstances, however, a patron who is accessing material which is obscene, indecent, violent, or otherwise inappropriate for viewing in the library environment may be directed not to access the material by library staff. The decision as to what is or is not obscene, indecent, violent, or otherwise inappropriate shall be in the discretion of the Library staff.

Generally, Albany Public Library does not use filtering software, however, in the discretion of the Board and in alignment with any stipulations on receiving grants funding, the Library may filter internet use in connection with certain programmatic initiatives.

The monitoring of a minor's access to the Internet is the responsibility of that person's parent or legal guardian.

Warning Use of a computer at the Library to engage in personal business of a confidential nature is not advised because the Library is not able to ensure that such information will be protected from public view or access.

The Library's wireless network is not secure, and the Library cannot guarantee the safety of your traffic across its wireless network. The Library assumes no responsibility for the configurations, security, or files on your personal device resulting from connection to the Library's network. Information sent out to or from your device can be captured by anyone else with a wireless device and appropriate software.

The Library is not able to provide technical assistance other than the instruction on how to connect your device to our WIFI network. If you need assistance, contact the manufacturer of your laptop, device, or software. The Library is not responsible for any changes you make to your device's settings.

All Library rules and policies apply to WIFI access from our facilities. The Library reserves the right to deny WIFI access to customers who violate our policies. Please view our Behavior Policies for more information.

RESPONSIBILITY:

It is the responsibility of all Albany Public Library staff to enforce this policy.

PROCEDURE:

As stated above.

APPROVED/REVIEWED:

Adopted: October 2018

Amended: November 2021