

Internet Access and Use Policy

Policy Statement

Internet access and the provision for public computing at the Rochester Hills Public library (RHPL) are an extension of the library's commitment to meeting the community's information needs.

General Access

1. Internet access, computing resources and online resources accessible through the Library are provided to all library patrons in good standing regardless of age, gender, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, disability, language proficiency, or social or economic status.
2. The library neither monitors nor controls internet information and cannot be held responsible for its content, quality, accuracy, or currency. The internet is a worldwide community with a highly diverse user population, and its use is at the patron's discretion.
3. Librarians have developed a variety of recommended links in order to facilitate public use of the internet. Patrons should recognize, however, that the library is not responsible for changes to the content of linked sites, nor for the content of sources accessed through subsequent links. See *INF-3 Web Site* policy.
4. Staff will provide assistance to internet users to the extent that time and patron demands allow. See *INF-2 Information Services* policy.
5. Internet access may be unavailable at times due to technical difficulties.

Procedures for Use

6. Internet access is free to all patrons with a valid RHPL card in good standing. Patrons who are not eligible for a RHPL library card may request a guest card that is valid for one day. Patrons will need to log into the computer with their library card number and PIN/password.
7. Workstations are available on a first come, first served basis. Library cardholders are granted a one-hour session for computer use. Guest pass users are granted a thirty-minute session for computer use. Additional time may be available if no other patrons are waiting.
8. The library offers the capability to print from its computers. The library charges for the use of its printers. The current fee is \$.10 for black and white and \$.50 for color copies.
9. The workstations must be used in a responsible manner, respecting the rights of others, and taking care with the use of the equipment. Changing workstation and/or internet settings is prohibited. Users shall refrain from use of personal software, the attachment of equipment to the library's computers or networks or

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- the modification of any operating system or network configuration. Users shall also refrain from downloading/uploading files to/from the library's computers that are reasonably likely to contain viruses or other programs that may harm the library computers or operating systems. Users are also not permitted to change the security setup, operating systems, the network configuration, or any other configuration of any library computer terminal without authorization. Users are also not permitted to add any hardware or devices to the computer terminal..
10. Unauthorized use of others' passwords or identity is prohibited. Users must not attempt to modify or gain access to files, passwords or data belonging to others; and may not hack or seek disallowed access to any computer system via the internet.
 11. The workstations cannot be used for any fraudulent or unlawful purpose, including activities prohibited under any applicable federal, Michigan or local laws, including but not limited to, (1) accessing materials that can be classified as obscene¹ or child pornography; (2) gaining unauthorized access to or use of patron information or accounts; (3) engaging in identity theft; (4) engaging in civil rights violations; or (5) monitoring or capturing information regarding individuals and their use of the computers or internet illegally, such as by using a keylogger.
 12. Patrons should be aware that material on the internet is copyrighted and may be subject to other intellectual property rights. It is the patron's responsibility to be aware of the display of any notices concerning the copyright of information and other intellectual property on the internet, and to respect the federal copyright and other intellectual property laws. Responsibility for any consequences of copyright infringement or violations of other laws or agreements lies with the User. The library expressly disclaims any liability or responsibility resulting from such use.
 13. While respecting intellectual freedom and patrons' First Amendment rights, the same rules apply to the use of the internet as with the use of any other library materials. All internet users must comply with the *CUS-2 Code of Conduct* policy.
 14. Minors may not access, send, receive, print, or be exposed to materials that can be classified as obscene or harmful² to minors³. Patrons are legally responsible for ensuring that minors are not exposed to such content. Library staff may request that a patron utilize a privacy screen, move to a computer location where minors are not present, or implement another means to avoid display of obscene matter or sexually explicit matter that is harmful to minors.

¹ Michigan Obscene Material Act, P.A. 343 of 1984

² Michigan Harmful to Minors Act, P.A. 33 of 1978

³ MCL 397.606 *et seq.* library Privacy Act

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Internet Filtering; Children Under 18

15. Filtered Access. To comply with the requirements of the Children’s Internet Protection Act (CIPA) and Michigan’s Public Act 212 of 2000 (PA 212), all computer terminals are filtered. Further, the library’s wireless access is also filtered. Filtered access means the computer or wireless system has a program installed that is designed to restrict minors from receiving obscene materials or sexually explicit materials that is harmful to minors as defined by PA 212 and visual depictions that are obscene, child pornography or harmful to minors as defined by CIPA. This filtering method is designed to prevent access by minors to inappropriate matter on the internet.
16. Safety of Minors Regarding E-Mail. The library does not filter e-mail or other direct electronic communications. It is the responsibility of the parent or guardian to educate the minor on safety and security and monitor the use of these communications. The library will provide educational materials related to the safety and security of minors when using electronic mail, chat rooms and other forms of direct electronic communications, unlawful online activities, and dissemination of personal information regarding minors. However, parents or guardians are responsible for monitoring a minor’s access to internet.
17. Internet Filtering – Patrons 18 Years of Age or Older.
 - A. *Disable Filters.* Patrons 18 years of age or older may request to have the filters disabled for bona fide research or other lawful purposes. The library’s wireless access cannot be disabled, so any patron who desires to have the filters disabled must use the library’s computers.
 - B. *Unblock Sites.* Individuals 18 years of age or older who believe an internet site has been improperly blocked can request that the site be “unblocked.” A request to unblock should be in writing to the library director and signed by the person making the request. A decision on the site’s status will be made by the library director, who will prepare a written reply to the individual submitting the form.
 - C. *Internet Filtering – Patrons Under 18 years of Age.*
 1. Responsibility of Parents and Legal Guardians. As with other materials in the library’s collection, it is the library’s policy that parents or legal guardians are responsible for deciding which library resources are appropriate for their children. The library urges parents and guardians to discuss internet use with their children and to monitor their use of this educational tool. Parents and youth patrons are encouraged to participate in the library’s training offered on internet use that explains both the benefits and pitfalls inherent in its use.

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2. Unfiltering Terminals. Minors who are 17 years old may only have the filters (filters used to filter visual depictions of obscenity, child pornography and materials that is deemed harmful to minors as prohibited by CIPA) disabled on a computer used by that patron for (1) bona fide research or other lawful purposes and (2) only if a parent or legal guardian has accompanied them to the library and is always sitting at the computer station or terminal. Patrons under the age of 17 may not ask for the terminal to be unfiltered pursuant to the requirements of CIPA.

3. Unblocking Websites. Patrons under the age of 18 may request in writing that a particular site be unblocked, but only if the site does not include obscene or sexually explicit materials deemed harmful to minors or other materials prohibited by law. The library director shall make that determination.

Enforcement and Appeal

Staff is authorized to terminate any patron's session if the patron has failed to comply with the library's *INF-4 Internet Access and Use* policy. The library director may impose longer or permanent restrictions for violations of the library's policies. Internet patrons whose session has been terminated or whose access to the library has been prohibited may appeal the decision to the board of trustees as set forth in the *CUS-2 Code of Conduct* policy.

Approved: January 12, 2009, October 11, 2021

Rochester Hills Public library Board of Trustees