

Prince William Public Library System
Library Policy
Library Internet and Wi-Fi Acceptable
Use Policy

Approved by the Library Board of Trustees 6/23/2016

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Library Internet and Wi-Fi Acceptable Use Policy
June 2016

Introduction

The Library maintains access to the Internet on designated Library equipment as an electronic tool to locate information. The Prince William Public Library System also offers free wireless access for library patrons. **A patron's use of this service indicates acceptance of, and agreement to abide by, the *Prince William Public Library System's Library Internet and Wi-Fi Acceptable Use Policy*.** Due to the availability of wireless networks, it may be possible for a user to access other wireless networks not provided by the Prince William Public Library System. Use of these non-Library System networks within the Library System's branches is also governed by the *Prince William Public Library System's Library Internet and Wi-Fi Acceptable Use Policy*.

1. User Agreement Statements

In accessing the Internet, using either Library-provided equipment or a personal device, Library users must understand and agree to the following statements.

- The Library is not responsible for the accuracy or content of any material on the Internet.
- Use of any library computers and/or Internet access that interferes with the activities of the library or its network or is in violation of Virginia Code §18.2-374.1:1 (child pornography), Virginia Code §18.2-372 (obscene materials) or §18.2-390 (materials deemed harmful to juveniles) is prohibited. Prince William Public Library System will cooperate with legal authorities in the investigation of alleged crimes or civil wrongs in accordance with existing Library policy and procedures.
- The Library provides filtered access to the Internet only on Library equipment. The filter program blocks access to content that is considered inappropriate for viewing in a public place. This policy is not intended to violate the First Amendment rights of any Library user, but instead is merely to block child pornography, obscene materials, and, with respect to minors, content that is harmful to juveniles.
- No filtering software is totally accurate. Patrons may request to block or unblock a specific site through Library staff who will follow the Internet Filtration Review Process. Prince William Public Library System's Technology Services Division will respond to questions and concerns regarding the filter's accuracy and communicate with the filtering software vendor with the goal of improving its product.
- Patrons may also request that the library staff disable or allow them to bypass the Internet for bona fide research or other lawful purposes. While using the Internet without filtration software in place, patrons must keep in mind that any illegal use opens them to prosecution for breaking Federal, State, or Local laws

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and that the Library staff has a duty to assist in the apprehension and prosecution of people who break these laws on Library property.

- The Wi-Fi access points provided are unfiltered. By using the network, a patron agrees that their use is governed by the *Prince William Public Library System's Library Internet and Wi-Fi Acceptable Use Policy*.
- Library users understand that the Library is not responsible for monitoring children's use of the Internet.

2. Public Internet Policy

With respect to material which may be offensive, but which is nonetheless protected by the First Amendment, the Library System believes that the information available through the Internet outweighs the chance that users may come across material that may not be relevant to their search and/or may be offensive to them. At the same time, the Library reserves the right to determine if access to specific Internet sites may cause a disturbance which would disrupt normal library service. Library users must be aware that access in a public setting carries certain responsibilities. The Library cannot ensure, however, that all users will honor these responsibilities.

3. Prohibited Conduct

The Library System expects Library patrons to use its resources in a responsible manner. Failure to do so will result in the loss of Internet and Library System privileges. Illegal acts involving Library resources are subject to prosecution by local, state, or federal authorities.

The following activities are strictly prohibited by law and/or this policy:

- Attempting to alter or damage computer equipment, software or files belonging to the Library System, other users, or other networks.
- Attempting unauthorized entry to the Library System's network, the County network or other external networks.
- Evading or attempting to evade, or disabling or attempting to disable, the Library's Internet filtration software.
- Intentional propagation of computer viruses or worms.
- Violation of copyright or communication laws.
- Violation of software licensing agreements.
- Transmitting or displaying threatening, obscene, harassing, or otherwise legally prohibited materials.
- Violation of another Library user's privacy.
- Patrons may not extend or modify the network in any way.