

Internet Safety & Use Policy

Mission

The Fayetteville-Lincoln County Public Library is committed to providing free and open access to information, ideas, and technology. By offering Internet access, we support lifelong learning, personal growth, and connection to the wider world. The Library strives to provide a safe, welcoming environment where patrons of all ages can explore information and ideas responsibly.

Internet Access

The Library's collection is supplemented by online resources available through the Internet. Public computers and Wi-Fi are provided for patrons to access information for education, research, personal growth, and entertainment. Because the Internet is an unregulated resource, information found online may be reliable and current, or it may be inaccurate, illegal, obscene, or offensive. The Library cannot control this content, and patrons access the Internet at their own discretion.

The Library assumes no responsibility for damages—direct, indirect, or consequential—that may result from use of its computers, network, or information found online. Patrons are encouraged to use caution, verify sources, and use antivirus protection on personal devices.

Because the Library is a **public setting**, patrons should have no expectation of privacy while using Library computers or Wi-Fi. The Library cannot guarantee the confidentiality of information accessed or stored on public computers or networks.

Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA)

In compliance with the **Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA)**, FLCPL uses filtering software on all Internet-accessible computers to block or filter visual depictions that are obscene, pornographic, or harmful to minors. These filters help ensure that Library computers provide a safe environment for all users.

Because filtering software is not perfect, some inappropriate content may not be blocked, while some legitimate sites may be restricted. Adults (age 18 and older) may request that filtering be disabled for lawful purposes, and patrons of any age may request review of a website that appears to be blocked in error.

Responsibilities of Parents & Guardians

Parents and guardians are responsible for monitoring their children's use of all Library resources, including the Internet. Staff may suggest websites that are age-appropriate and provide guidance on safe Internet practices, but they cannot act in place of a parent or guardian. **Children under the age of 14 must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian while using Library computers.**

Acceptable Use of Computers

All patrons are expected to use Library computers responsibly and with respect for the rights of others. This includes refraining from activities that could harm computer systems, interfere with the work of other users, or violate local, state, or federal law.

Patrons must not view sexually explicit or obscene material, engage in unlawful activities, attempt to bypass filters, damage Library computers or software, or harass other users. **All users must comply with Tennessee Code Title 39, Chapter 17, Part 9, which prohibits sending, receiving, or displaying text or graphics that may be reasonably construed as obscene by community standards, regardless of age.**

Minors are prohibited from accessing materials harmful to them, disclosing personal information without parental permission, attempting unauthorized access to systems, or using online communication tools in ways that compromise their safety or security.

Time Limits & Computer Use

Computer sessions are generally unlimited unless demand is high. When all computers are in use, Library staff may limit sessions to thirty minutes per patron to ensure fair access.

Library laptops and other mobile devices must be checked out at the service desk before use. Patrons must leave a valid driver's license or other acceptable form of identification, which will be returned when the device is brought back in good condition. Laptops should be used responsibly and returned promptly so other patrons can access them.

Guidance and Safety Tips for Patrons

- Always protect personal information and use strong passwords when accessing email or social media.
- Be cautious of websites that request financial or private information.
- Verify sources when conducting research; not all information online is accurate.
- Notify Library staff if you encounter content that is offensive, illegal, or potentially harmful.

Penalties for Violations

Use of Library computers and Internet services is a **privilege, not a right**. Violations of this policy may result in suspension of computer privileges, temporary or permanent restriction of Library access, or notification of law enforcement when required.

Attempts to bypass filtering software or view pornography will result in suspension of Internet access for a minimum of sixty days. A second offense may result in permanent loss of Library privileges. Any attempt to access or view child pornography will result in immediate notification of the Fayetteville Police Department and permanent banning from all Library property.

Acknowledgment

By using FLCPL computers, devices, or Wi-Fi, patrons agree to comply with this Internet Safety & Use Policy.