

# **Internet and Wireless Use Policy**

## **Accessing the Internet**

The Lehigh Public Library provides workstations for free public internet access. Use of the internet via the library's wireless network is also bound by this policy. The library does not control specific information on the internet. Parents or guardians are responsible for the internet information selected and/or accessed by their minor children. We advise parents or guardians to supervise their children's internet sessions at the library.

## **Using the Internet**

Computer users can login directly at any available Library public access computer. The library also offers free wireless internet access to patrons with personal wireless-enabled laptop computers or handheld devices. Trained library staff will assist with library equipment and resources, but may not be able to help with personal devices. The library does not accept liability for any patron's personal equipment.

## **Computer Use**

- All users of the library will have equal access to the library's computer resources.
- Patrons who wish to use web-based applications must register and maintain their own accounts.
- Anything downloaded to the library's computers will automatically be deleted at the end of each business day, including search histories.
- No more than two persons may use a public access computer at the same time.

## **Staff Assistance**

Library staff will assist with the library's public access computers as long as time permits and service to other patrons will not be impeded.

## **Availability**

The Library's internet computers may be unavailable or may be available for limited use due to Library needs, maintenance, repair, or unforeseen problems.

## **Restrictions**

The use of the internet in the library must be for legal and ethical purposes. Examples of unacceptable purposes include, but are not limited to the following:

- The Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17 of the United States Code) governs the downloading and reproduction of copyrighted material. The person using the library's computers is liable for any infringement. The library reserves the right to refuse a download or print job if, in its judgment, fulfillment of the order would be in violation of copyright law.
- The Digital Millennium Copyright Act of 1998 (DMCA) is a piece of legislation that made major changes to address the digitally networked environment. The library will make every effort to comply with this piece of legislation and in turn expects patrons using the library's internet or Wi-Fi access to comply as well.
- Users must also comply with all local, state, and federal laws while using the internet. Users found to have violated any laws, including but not limited to those concerning privacy, obscenity, fraud or copyright, while using Library facilities or equipment will have their internet privileges revoked.
- Receiving or displaying text or graphics that may reasonably be construed as indecent or obscene and that might be harmful to minors. Iowa Code, Chapter 728.2, "Dissemination and exhibition of obscene materials to minors" states: Any person, other than the parent or guardian of a minor who knowingly disseminates or exhibits obscene materials to a minor, including the exhibition of obscene material so that it can be observed by a minor [emphasis added] on or off the premises where it is displayed, is guilty of a public offense and shall upon conviction be guilty of a serious misdemeanor.
- Destruction of or damage to Library equipment, software, or data.
- Violation of a Library computer's system security and/or system configuration.
- Use of sounds that are disturbing to others. Earbuds or headphones must be used if the computer's or hand-held device's speakers are turned on, headphones are available at the Circulation desk.

## **Enforcement**

While respecting individual users' right to privacy, the library staff reserves the right to monitor the use of computer workstations to ensure compliance with this policy. Library staff has the authority to end any computer session and to instruct the user to cease further use of the library's computers.

## **Consequences**

Violations of the Library's internet and Wi-Fi policy may result in loss of computer privileges and may lead to financial responsibility on the users' behalf. Illegal acts involving Library computers may also be subject to prosecution by local, state, or federal authorities.

## **Wireless Internet Access (Wi-Fi)**

Wireless internet access is provided free of charge by the Lehigh Public Library for patrons who have the required hardware and software needed for this service. By choosing to use this free wireless internet access, you agree to abide by the terms and conditions of this policy. In particular, you agree to use the library's wireless network resources only for lawful and ethical purposes.

The following considerations are to be made when using the Lehigh Public Library's wireless internet access:

- Wi-Fi access is a service provided as a free public service on an "as is" basis with no guarantee of service.
- Users are responsible for setting up their equipment to access the Library's Wi-Fi network. The library is not able to provide technical assistance. If you need assistance, contact the manufacturer of your laptop or software. The library is not responsible for any changes you make to your computer's settings.
- It is recommended that all Wi-Fi users should have up-to-date antivirus software installed on their computers.

- As with most public Wi-Fi networks, the library's wireless network is not secure. Any information transmitted (including credit card numbers, passwords, and other sensitive information) could potentially be intercepted by another computer user.
- By using this connection, users acknowledge that security errors and hacking are an inherent risk associated with any wireless service. For that reason, users expressly agree that they knowingly assume such risk, and further agree to hold the library harmless from any claim or loss arising out of, or related to any such instance of hacking or other unauthorized use or access into the user's computer.
- The library accepts no responsibility for any software downloaded and/or installed, email opened, or sites accessed while users are on the wireless internet connection. Any damage done to the user's equipment or self from viruses, identity theft, spyware, plug-ins, or other internet-borne programs is the sole responsibility of the user and the user indemnifies and holds harmless the library from any such damages.
- Unauthorized downloading of copyrighted material(s) is strictly forbidden and will result in suspension or revocation of library privileges and may result in a formal notification to the appropriate local law enforcement authorities.
- The library assumes no responsibility for damage to or loss of equipment; users must keep their equipment with them at all times while in the library.

### **Disclaimer**

The Library makes no guarantee, either expressed or implied, with respect to the availability, quality or content of the information on the internet. Users are encouraged to evaluate the validity of information accessed, either on their own or with the assistance of library staff.