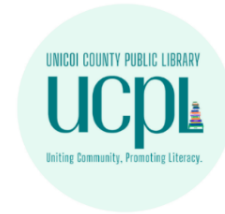


Unicoi County Public Library Internet Policy



Using the Internet

The internet offers access to a wealth of information that can be personally, professionally, and culturally enriching. However, the U. S. Congress and the courts have recognized that there is no single organization to govern, control, or select information for the internet.

The Unicoi County Public Library cannot be held responsible for the content of the internet, as the library has no control over this vast array of informational resources. The library specifically disclaims any warrant as to the information's accuracy, timeliness, authoritativeness, usefulness, or fitness for a particular purpose. The library will have no liability for direct, indirect, or consequential damages related to the use of information accessed through the library's internet service.

The library makes no guarantee of complete access to the internet from any computer workstation. Internet resources may vary according to the primary services supported in each area or department. The library will not monitor a user's internet session, except for length of time in order to ensure equal opportunity of access for everyone. The library will make a good faith effort to purge all patron originated information left on library computers. Information transmitted and received on the library's public computers is by no means guaranteed to be protected from interception by other parties inside or outside the library.

Users are cautioned that library computers are located in public areas where computer screens are visible to others, so they cannot be considered private. The user, or the parent/guardian of a minor user, is responsible for his or her internet session at all times. Library staff reserves the right to ensure compliance with this internet policy.

Filtering

In compliance with the Children's Internet Protection Act of 2000, the library uses filtering software or other technology protection measures on library computers and all other personal devices connected to the library's network. Filters are required to prevent minors from accessing visual depictions that are obscene, child pornography, or harmful to minors.

The library makes no claim that its filtering software or any filtering software is foolproof. Filtering software diminishes the likelihood that users will inadvertently retrieve text or images that they may find offensive but does not eliminate that possibility. Filters may block sites that users would consider both inoffensive and useful. Users aged 17 and older may ask a library staff member to disable the filters for bona fide research or other lawful purposes.

Adopted by the Unicoi County Public Library Board of Directors on November 16th 2023

The library will have no liability for damages related to the operation of, or failure of, the filtering software, or for its circumvention by users.

Internet Safety/Child Safety on the Internet

Parents/guardians are responsible for the internet information accessed by their children under the age of 18. Parents/guardians should be aware that the only way to monitor their children's internet use is for the adult to be present at the computer. At all times, while using the library or its internet access, children 10 and under must be accompanied by a parent/guardian or an adult caregiver.

User Responsibilities

All users of the internet at the library are expected to use this resource in a responsible and ethical manner, consistent with the library's educational and informational purposes, and to follow all internet related rules, regulations, and procedures established for its use including, but not limited to, those of the library.

Responsible use of the internet at the library includes:

- Complying with the library's posted Code of Conduct
- Using the library's computers for library designated purposes only
- Not abusing or misusing library computers or any other equipment; changes are not allowed to the setup or configuration of the software or hardware
- Not using someone else's library account to access the internet
- Respecting the sensibilities of others when accessing potentially offensive information and images.
- Refraining from illegal or unethical use of the internet, including the viewing of any material which depicts nudity, sexual contact, excess violence and which is harmful to minors per the Tennessee Code Annotated 39-17-911.
- Refraining from so-called "hacking" and other unlawful activities.
- Refraining from uses that compromise the safety and security of minors when using e-mail, chat rooms and other forms of direct electronic communications: Minors under age 17: Giving others private information about one's self or others, including credit card numbers and social security numbers; arranging a face-to-face meeting with someone one has "met" on the computer network or Internet without a parent's permission.

The library is not responsible for damage to users' storage medium or electronic devices or for any loss of data, damage, or liability that may occur from use of the library's computers.

The library provides free, unsecured, wireless internet access for public use. The library does not provide technical support for privately owned personal electronic devices. Security for personal wireless devices rests solely with the owner of the wireless device. Personal use of the library's public wireless access will conform to policies regulating other types of public internet access provided by the library.

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Response to Violations

The library reserves the right to terminate an internet session that disrupts library services or that involves user behavior that violates this or any other library policy. Failure to comply with library policies may result in the temporary or permanent forfeiture of the user's privilege to access these computers or to use the library.

Confidentiality and Privacy

By law, records of patrons' Internet activity are to be kept confidential. Confidential library records are not to be released except pursuant to a properly executed warrant or subpoena.

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