

Computer/Electronic Devices/Internet Use Policy

The Library Network provides access to electronic information resources through the Internet to all Delaware Public Library cardholders in good standing. Internet access is provided by the Delaware Department of State, Division of Libraries. Users must enter their 14-digit barcode number and their Personal Identification Number (PIN) to access the Internet.

Guest passes may be issued on a case-by-case basis according to the need of the individual, the availability of a computer or Chromebook, and/or at the discretion of library staff.

Libraries use a reservation system for computer use. Blocks of time are established by the reservation system. Additional blocks of time may be available to patrons, subject to the schedule and at the Library's discretion.

To protect computer workstations from viruses, patrons may not use their own software on them.

Most programs on the Internet include self-explanatory directions. While library staff is available for guidance, they cannot provide in-depth instruction.

The Library Network has no control over the Internet and its resources, and assumes no responsibility for the quality, accuracy, or currency of the information you find. The Internet is a worldwide community with a highly diverse user population, and it is the patron's responsibility to use the resource wisely.

The Internet may contain material of a controversial nature. Children under the age of eighteen (18) years must have the permission of a parent or guardian to use the Internet. Some sites accessible on the Internet may contain material inappropriate for children. Parents or guardians, not library staff, are responsible for the Internet information selected and/or accessed by their children. Parents are reminded that only they can judge what material is suitable for their children to access. There is a great deal of material on the Internet that many, if not most, parents would find objectionable. Parents should discuss limits to viewing Internet materials with their children. Library staff can provide parents with information to help them talk with their children about the Internet. Parents should supervise their child's use of the Internet. Parents or legal guardians have the right to request at their local public library that their child's personal library barcode not grant access to the Internet or other online services.

Libraries will provide unfiltered access to the Internet in accordance with the American Library Association's Intellectual Freedom Statement, the Library Bill of Rights, and the ALA statement on Access to Electronic Information, Services, and Networks. Libraries comply with the Delaware Children's Internet Protection Act by establishing tiers of access. Parents or legal guardians have the right to restrict their own child's personal library barcode to the desired level of access



Internet workstations must be used in a responsible manner, respecting the rights of others, and taking care with the use of the equipment. Computer and Internet settings may not be changed.

While the library will respect user privacy when using the Internet, it should be remembered that Internet workstations are in public areas and can be viewed by the entire community. Users are asked not to display images that will be offensive to other members of the community.

Internet access may be unavailable due to technical issues beyond the library's control. The library will not be held responsible for any material lost due to equipment problems.

To collect statistics on Internet use, the library reserves the right to use anonymous activity tracking. No user identification will be associated with the statistical reporting process.

User Responsibilities:

All users of electronic information resources, such as the Internet, are expected to use these resources in a responsible manner, consistent with the educational and informational purposes for which they are provided, and follow these rules and regulations.

All users must conduct themselves in a responsible and legal manner while using The Library Network.

Any use of the Library Network for illegal, inappropriate, or obscene purposes or in support of such activities is prohibited. Illegal activities shall be defined as a violation of local, state, and/or federal laws. Inappropriate use shall be defined as a violation of the intended use of the Library Network. Obscene activities shall be defined as a violation of generally accepted community standards.

A user may not allow other persons to access The Library Network by using his/her personal library barcode. A user is responsible for all activities conducted on The Library Network during sessions authorized by his/her personal library barcode.

Users must respect all copyright, licensing, and other contractual agreements.

Unacceptable Use:

- Harassment, libel, or slander of other users.
- Destruction of equipment, software, or data belonging to the library.
- Unauthorized use of copyright-protected materials.
- Any violation of computer security.
- Any use that violates maintenance agreements with service providers.

Any user who, without authorization, accesses, uses, destroys, alters, dismantles, or disfigures any data, information technology, property, or facility is in violation of this policy. The Delaware Library Network Administration reserves the right to monitor and/or record activities as needed to maintain the security and usability of the Library Network Internet service and the systems to which it is connected. Persons violating or suspected of violating this policy are subject to the monitoring and/or recording of their sessions. All monitored or recorded activities and sessions are considered confidential to the user and The Library Network Administration, except as evidence in a legal proceeding.



Any violation of this policy will result in disciplinary actions, which may include suspension or removal of the Library Network Internet privileges and/or legal action.