



AUSTIN PUBLIC LIBRARY COMPUTER AND INTERNET USE POLICY

INTRODUCTION

As part of its mission to provide free and open access to information of all types and formats for library users of all ages and backgrounds, the Austin Public Library provides access to the internet.

The library cannot control the information available over the internet and is not responsible for its content. The library's computers have commercial filtering software. The filtering software will block many specific sites that may be offensive, illegal, or disturbing to some, but may not block all material that is offensive to users.

The library affirms the right and responsibility of parents and legal guardians to determine and monitor their children's use of library resources. Parents should inform their children of their standards of appropriate content and may wish to limit or supervise their children's internet sessions.

RULES GOVERNING USE

In order to allow all users access to the internet, patrons are asked to comply with the rules outlined in the **Computer Access Statement**.

LEGAL USE ONLY

Library computers and wi-fi network may not be used for any illegal activity including, but not limited to:

- Damaging or altering computer equipment or software;
- Displaying, printing, or distributing any material that is illegal, libelous, threatening or harassing, including obscene materials (as defined by state and federal law); or
- Violating copyright or trademark laws, software licensing agreements or intellectual property rights.

Users engaging in illegal activities may lose computer privileges and/or be asked to leave the library. Library staff will work with law enforcement and authorities to address illegal activity as necessary.

INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM

The Austin Public Library upholds the rights of all library users to read, seek information and speak freely as guaranteed by the First Amendment, regardless of format or technology. These are fundamental rights in a democratic society and are core values of the library.

Reviewed and revised: October 2024



Computer Access Statement

Availability of Public Computers:

Computers are available on a first-come, first-served basis. All users must agree to abide by the Computer and Internet Use Policy. The Library Director or designated staff member may set a maximum computer use per day for library patrons, at the discretion of the director and staff, to accommodate patron demand for computer time. Exceptions to such maximums may be made by the librarian on duty at the Information Desk or other designated staff members.

Log-In Requirements:

A library card number and PIN are required to log on to a computer. Visitors who do not have a SELCO library card can obtain a guest pass from a library staff member at the service desk. If a user is found using another person's library card or violating other rules regarding use of sign-in credentials, their internet privileges may be suspended.

Deletion of Data and Browsing History:

Files and browsing history are deleted upon log-off. Documents sent to the public printer are held in the system until the system reboots after closing each day.

Printing:

Black and white printouts are twenty-five cents per sheet. Color printouts are fifty cents per sheet. Printing from the wireless network is available. Ask at the Information Desk for assistance.

Desktop Computers:

A number of desktop computers are available for adults (age 16+), and several are designated for children under sixteen years of age. The library has one Adaptive PC with an adjustable table and touch screen. All computers have internet access.

Computer and Hotspot Checkout for Use Outside the Library:

Wifi Hotspots and Chromebook computers are available for checkout to patrons with no fines and a physical library card.

Wi-Fi:

Wireless-enabled devices can access the internet using the public wireless network. There is no password required. As a result, the library's wireless network is not secure. Any information sent or received could potentially be intercepted by another wireless user.

Liability for Damage to Personal Computers or Devices:

The Austin Public Library is not responsible for any damage to a user's device or for accounts established by users accessing either the library's wireless internet access system or by a user's use of a library hotspot device.