

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: March 2019

Computer Access Statement

Computers are available on a first-come, first-served basis. All users must agree to abide by the Computer and Internet Use Policy. Computers can be used for a maximum of three hours per day. Some exceptions can be made by the librarian on duty at the Information Desk.

A library card number and PIN are required to log on to a computer. Visitors who do not have a SELCO library card can present a photo ID to obtain a guest pass. If a user is found using another person's library card, their internet privileges may be suspended.

Files and browsing history are deleted upon log-off. USB drives are sold at the Information Desk.

Black and white printouts are twenty-five cents per sheet. Color printouts are fifty cents per sheet.

Desktop Computers:

A number of desktop computers are available for adults (age 15+), and several are designated for children under fifteen years of age. The library has one Adaptive PC with an adjustable table, and two 20-minute express stations. All computers have internet access.

Laptop and iPad checkout

A number of laptop computers are available to patrons with no fines and a physical library card. These devices are available from the librarian at the information desk and must remain in the library. Patrons may check out Chromebook devices for use outside the library.

Wi-Fi

Wireless-enabled devices can access the internet using the public wireless network. There is no logon 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.

Printing from the wireless network is available. Ask at the Information Desk for assistance.

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.

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