

Policy Statement

Providing Internet access and public computers are an integral part of the Montclair Public Library's commitment to meeting the community's information needs.

Regulations

1. Internet access, computing resources and online resources accessible through the Library are provided free of charge to all Library customers on a non-discriminatory basis. The Library also provides free public access to its Wi-Fi services, which customers can access using their own Internet enabled devices. The provisions of this policy also apply to users of the Library's Wi-Fi services.
2. The Library neither monitors nor controls Internet information and cannot be held responsible for the content, quality, accuracy, currency, suitability or appropriateness of Internet information. The Internet is a worldwide community with a highly diverse user population, and its use is at the customer's discretion.
3. Librarians have developed a variety of web pages with recommended links in order to facilitate public use of the Internet. Customers should recognize, however, that the library is not responsible for changes to the content of linked sites, nor for the content of sources accessed through subsequent links.
4. Staff will provide assistance to Internet customers to the extent that time and customer demands allow by answering questions about how to access and may offer suggestions for effective searching. Staff also may provide information about computer and Internet training programs, books, manuals and other materials customers can pursue on their own.
5. Customers should be aware that material on the Internet and the World Wide Web is copyrighted. It is the customer's responsibility to be aware of the display of any notices concerning the copyright of information on the Internet, and to respect the federal copyright laws, and may not violate software license agreements or copyright laws while using the Library's computers or Internet access.
6. While respecting intellectual freedom and customers' First Amendment rights, the library is committed to providing an environment free from sexual and other forms of harassment and hate. Because staff does not monitor the public's use of the Internet, customers are asked to be sensitive of others' values and beliefs. Users have a right to privacy without the close scrutiny of library staff or other customers, but should exercise

caution and restraint when accessing potentially controversial information and images.

7. Because the Library receives federal funding for public Internet access, the federal Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) requires the Library to install blocking software on its Internet terminals. The blocking software, or filter, is intended to protect against access to Internet pictures and other materials that are obscene, child pornography, or harmful to minors. The filter is imperfect and technologically limited, however, and so it may block access to some constitutionally protected material on the Internet and may fail to completely block Internet material that is obscene, child pornography or harmful to minors. As the CIPA requires, the Library will provide unfiltered Internet access to persons 17 or older who request it for bona fide research or any other lawful purpose.
8. Minors have a right to access the Internet for the use of video games, social media sites, research and information, and other purposes. Parents or guardians, not the Library or its staff, are ultimately responsible for monitoring their children's access to Internet information.
9. This policy is intended to protect minors while accessing the Internet using Library computers and resources by:
 - a. Prohibiting access by minors to inappropriate matter on the Internet;
 - b. Promoting the safety and security of minors when using electronic mail, chat rooms and other forms of direct electronic communications;
 - c. Prohibiting unauthorized access, including so-called "hacking," and other unlawful activities by minors online;
 - d. Prohibiting unauthorized disclosure, use, and dissemination of personal information regarding minors; and
 - e. Instituting measures restricting minors' access to materials harmful to them.
10. The Library reserves the right to limit the duration of customers' computer use sessions (generally, not more than one (1) hour per session).
11. Use of the Library's Internet access and public computers is a privilege, not a right, and in addition items 1-10 above customers using the Library's Internet access and public computers may not:
 - a. Download or install any software or application onto a Library computer, or do anything to damage, alter, or degrade Library computer equipment, peripherals, software or configurations, or the Library's computer network;

- b. Store data onto a Library computer or to anything other than a personal portable data storage device, such as a flash drive, or to a personal cloud location;
 - c. Use the Library's Internet access and/or public computers for commercial purposes, such as conducting a business enterprise or other commercial activity from the Library (although customers may use the Library's Internet access and public computers to find information and materials for later use in commercial activities conducted outside of the Library);
 - d. View sites or pages, which display child pornography or other unlawful content;
 - e. Engage in conduct, which is disruptive to the Library or to other Library customers, visitors or staff, or otherwise violate the Library's *Code of Conduct* policy (CUS-2).
12. Staff is authorized to terminate any customer's session if the customer has failed to comply with the Library's policy. The Library Director may impose longer or permanent restrictions for violations of the Library's policies. Internet customers whose session has been terminated or whose access to the Library has been suspended or prohibited may request the decision be reviewed by the Board of Trustees. See *Code of Conduct* policy (CUS-2).
13. Internet access may be unavailable at times due to technical difficulties.
14. The Montclair Public Library Board of Trustees endorses the "Access to Digital Information, Services, and Networks" and "Internet Filtering" interpretations of the Library Bill of Rights.
15. The Library is not responsible for any damage done to computer users' disks, data, hardware or software by any virus that may have been contracted on or through Library equipment. Although the Library has installed virus protection on its computers it is always possible for a new virus to emerge and, therefore, protection cannot be guaranteed.
16. The Library is not responsible for any damage done to Library technology users' disks, data, hardware or software as a result of the malfunctioning of Library hardware or software.
17. The Library shall have no liability for direct, indirect, or consequential damages related to any use of the Library's Internet access and public computers or any information accessed by such usage.
18. Customers using the Library's Internet access and public computers are liable for damage to equipment caused by inappropriate or unauthorized use.
19. By using a Library computer or Internet access, including Wi-Fi, customers agree to hold Montclair Public Library (Including the Library's

Board of Trustees, the Township of Montclair, and all of their employees, agents, elected and appointed officials, contractors, people and representatives) harmless and to indemnify it against any and all claims or liabilities, directly or indirectly, relating to the patron's or another person's use of the Library's Internet access and/or computers.

Approved: February 13, 2023
Montclair Public Library Board of Trustees