Computer and Internet Use Policy

The Joliet Public Library provides the people of Joliet with library materials and programs which contribute to their intellectual growth and broaden their access to the universe of information. It is within this context and with the goal of enhancing our existing collection in size and depth that the Library offers access to computers and the Internet.

The Joliet Public Library believes that all residents of Joliet should have access to a computer and/or the Internet when they desire or need to:

- Communicate with relatives, friends, businesses, and other organizations;

- Engage in activities related to work;

- Engage in activities related to the search for a job;

- Engage in activities related to education, both formal and informal;

- Engage in activities related to hobbies or other leisure time pursuits.

Description of Service

The Joliet Public Library maintains a variety of computer centers designed for people of different ages and information needs which allow public access to a variety of electronic resources. The Youth Services Department provides computers with developmentally appropriate software for young patrons. The Online Learning Resource Center at the Ottawa Street Library provides computers with specialized research resources. Public Internet computers are available in both buildings. Computers with complete, unfiltered Internet access are available for use by patrons 18 years of age or older. The Wi-Fi service is also unfiltered. Computers designated for use by patrons under 18 years of age have filtering software installed.

Filtering software is intended to protect against access to obscenity, child pornography, or materials deemed harmful to minors. Internet filtering is imperfect and technologically limited, however, and it may block access to constitutionally protected material while failing to block material that is considered obscene, pornographic, or harmful to minors. Guardians of children under 18 may give consent for their children to use computers and check out Wi-Fi hotspots with unfiltered Internet access. Blocked sites are subject to review with patron input.

In keeping with our general policies, Joliet Public Library protects a patron's right to privacy and confidentiality. The Library keeps confidential any information that resides on its computer network. As part of normal system maintenance, network administrators will occasionally monitor system activity, but the Library does not reveal information about an individual's use of computer resources

without a court order. However, electronic information is not secure and networks are sometimes susceptible to outside intervention. Patrons using the Internet to handle transactions of a personal nature, including banking, do so at their own risk. Library staff members are prohibited from creating or accessing a user's personal account on behalf of the user. The Library cannot guarantee users' privacy when using the Internet in the library. Inadvertent viewing by others is possible.

The Library supports intellectual freedom and the ALA interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights as it applies to Access to Electronic Information Services and Networks.

Computer and Internet Access

Patrons who hold a library card in good standing from any public library in Illinois may use public Internet computers at the Joliet Public Library. Patrons who do not have a valid library card are allowed to use the Express stations. People visiting or relocating from outside the greater Joliet area may use the public Internet computers for a limited time upon presentation of a valid picture ID. Anyone with a Wi-Fi enabled portable device may access Wi-Fi Internet service while visiting the library. However, the Library does not provide technical support for privately owned personal wireless devices.

To log on to the public Internet computers, an individual must use his or her own library card. Each patron is entitled to a daily session of up to one hour on the public Internet computers. At staff discretion, patrons may be allowed additional sessions if enough other computers are available in that center to accommodate the number of patrons expected. Staff may also take other measures to manage computer time, including (but not restricted to) reserving terminals for individuals or groups with specific usage needs. Printing is available at both buildings for a fee.

User Responsibilities

Patrons are urged to remember that the Joliet Public Library is a shared environment that serves the needs of a diverse group of users, and we strive to balance the rights of users to access resources with the rights of users to work in a public environment free from harassing sounds and visuals. In order to ensure an environment that promotes responsible and equitable use of library resources, the Library insists on the practice of cooperative computing. Users will:

•	Respect the privacy of other users;

•	Abide by the Rules of Conduct;

•	Refrain from the use of sounds and visuals which might disrupt the ability of other library patrons to use the Library and its resources;

•	Use only his or her own computer accounts, access codes, or network identification codes;

- Use only the applications and software already available on the network.

- Avoid overuse of bandwidth capacity;

- Use electronic information networks according to the strictures of Federal or State law, including copyright law;

- Refrain from destruction of, damage to, or unauthorized alteration of Library computer equipment, software, or network security procedures.

The Library affirms and acknowledges the rights and responsibilities of parents and guardians to monitor and determine their children's access to library materials and resources, including those available through the Internet.

Joliet Public Library relies on the cooperation of its users in order to ensure community access to a wide range of information. Library staff is authorized to terminate any patron's session or suspend a patron's computer privileges if a patron fails to comply with this policy. A suspension of privileges may be appealed in writing to the Library Director or designee.

Illegal activities or activities that interfere with or disrupt the network, users, services or equipment are prohibited and not protected by the Library's privacy policy.

Use of any public access computer or wireless connection at the Joliet Public Library constitutes acceptance of this policy and related procedures.

Library Responsibilities

The responsibility of the Library is to provide access to information, not to endorse it. The Library has no control over the information accessed through the Internet and cannot be held responsible for its content. To enhance patrons' information literacy skills, the Library offers a continuing program of free computer classes, which includes instruction on using the Internet and other computer applications.

Library staff is trained to do basic computer troubleshooting. Staff will try to answer general questions about the operation of the computers, but staff cannot provide in-depth training on them nor on any specific applications installed on the computers. Staff provides assistance as time and staff skill levels allow.

Disclaimers

Joliet Public Library assumes no liability for any loss or damage to users' data or devices, nor for any personal damage or injury incurred as a result of using the computer and internet resources. This includes damage or injury sustained from invasions of the user's privacy.

Procedures

Library staff shall develop such rules and procedures as are necessary to ensure the fair and reasonable use of computer resources.

Procedures

Library staff shall develop such rules and procedures as are necessary to ensure compliance with the Joliet Public Library Circulation Policy.

Exceptions to this policy are at the discretion of the Library Director or designee.