

Internet Access Policy

We are the York County Library System, an association of 13 community libraries working together to serve the people of York County.

The mission of the York County Libraries is to strengthen the York County community and to enrich individual lives by supplying information, providing recreation, promoting literacy, encouraging life-long learning, and serving as the hub of their communities.

Our goals in support of our mission include providing electronic access to information and resources in a variety of formats. Working together, we choose the most appropriate technology for each library situation and encourage visitors with their own devices to use our wireless connection to the Internet. We believe in the power of technology to deliver information, create opportunities for self-expression and connect people. We act on our beliefs by engaging in a continual search for its most effective use.

Why Access is being Provided

The libraries are pleased to offer its visitors access to the wealth of information and experiences on the Internet because it greatly expands our ability to accomplish our mission. With its vast, timely, and diverse resources, the Internet enhances existing library collections and provides the means by which we communicate beyond our physical location.

It is the libraries' mission to serve the entire community. Not all have access to the Internet by another means. The library may be their only source for this valuable tool.

Because the public library provides a unique Internet learning opportunity, staff is available to coach visitors using and applying the array of tools contained within it.

The Nature of the Internet

The Internet is a global network of computers and mobile devices continuously streaming vast amounts of information. That information reflects a great diversity of interests and opinions.

The Internet is not under one governing body. Each site controls its own content. The Internet is a reflection of society; whatever exists in the real world exists there. Since the Internet is an unregulated medium, it enables access to materials that are personally, professionally, and culturally enriching to individuals of all ages, as well as materials that some may find offensive or disturbing.

The libraries cannot control the content of any of the resources selected through the Internet. The Internet enables access to ideas, recordings, images and commentary beyond the scope of the libraries' selection criteria and collection development policies. It is left to each visitor to determine what information is appropriate to their needs and accept responsibility for what it accessed.

In compliance with the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA), York County Library System has installed a technology protection measure on computers equipped with Internet access. Only library users 17 years of age and older may request the disabling of this filter.

Internet access from the libraries is provided in accordance with the our adoption of the Library Bill of Rights and the American Library Association's Interpretations of the Library Bill of Rights as it applies to access to Electronic Information, Services and Networks. In support of the Freedom to Read and the Universal Right to Free Expression, Internet resources accessible through the Library are provided equally to all library users, regardless of ages.

As with other library materials, parents or guardians, not the library or its staff, are responsible for monitoring their children's selection of resources through the Internet. Parents and only parents may restrict their children and only their children from accessing Internet resources via a library's connection. We suggest that parents who are concerned about the types of materials available on the Internet supervise their children's library visits.

Responsible Use

Visitors have an obligation to use their access to the Internet in a responsible and informed way, conforming to network customs and courtesies. Because the Internet encompasses many interconnected networks and computer systems, each system has its own rules and limitations. Guests on these systems have an obligation to learn and abide by the rules.

Responsible use of the Internet includes the following:

1. Minors are not permitted to view explicit sexual materials as defined in 18 Pa.C.S. 5903.
2. Respecting the privacy of others by not misrepresenting oneself as someone else; by not attempting to modify or gain access to files, passwords or data belonging to others; by not seeking unauthorized access to any computer system or damaging or altering software or hardware components.
3. Respecting the privacy of others using a library's connection to the Internet by not interfering with their use.
4. Obeying copyright laws.

Each person using a library's connection must agree to follow our Internet Acceptable use Policy, included in the Addenda

(March 1997) ► Revised October 1999 ► Revised November 2009

ADDENDA

OPERATIONAL POLICY - ACCEPTABLE USE OF INTERNET ACCESS

YORK COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM BRANCHES & MARTIN LIBRARY

Effective: Feb 1, 2010

Last Updated: Dec 15, 2009

In compliance with the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA), the branches of the York County Library System: Collinsville Community Library, Dover Area Community Library, Kreutz Creek Valley Library Center, Red Land Community Library, and Village Library, and Martin Library (our libraries) provide mandated filtering of Internet access from within our libraries. Only adult library users (over 17 years of age) may request the disabling of this protection.

1. The use of electronic devices in our libraries is to promote the exchange of information, to further education and research, and to afford recreational opportunities. This is consistent with the mission of the York County Library System.
2. Patrons may access the Internet via personal devices using the library's wireless connection or their own mobile data plan; however you are responsible for the security of your device and data. Patron's use of personal devices or public computers in any of our libraries is subject to this Acceptable Use.
3. Your York County library card is required to use a public computer. Patrons may not use library cards from other patrons including family members.
4. Parents are responsible for monitoring their children's use of the Internet.
5. If the library makes available designated computing areas for various age groups, patrons must use the location for their age group. Patrons must also comply with the terms of service of the websites they are accessing.
6. Any use of electronic devices in any of our libraries for illegal activity is prohibited.
7. Use of our Internet service to send harassing or threatening messages to other users or staff is prohibited.
8. Use of library computers and/or our Wi-Fi network requires users to respect the rights and property of others. Users will not improperly record, access, misappropriate, transmit or misuse the files, data, information or likeness of others.
9. You may not install any software on library computers.
10. Users agree to observe all copyright and licensing laws.

Interpretation, application and modification of this Acceptable Use Policy are within the sole discretion of the York County Library System. Any questions or issues regarding this policy should be directed to library management.