

INTERNET ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY

The Three Forks Community Library offers access to the Internet in the belief that it is a vital information source. The library's connection to the Internet is provided to the public without charge.

The Internet is a freely accessible and largely unregulated resource. While the vast majority of sites on the World Wide Web are neutral arenas for information exchange, a small percentage of sites may contain material that might prove offensive to some users. The Library assumes no control over the content of material on the Internet.

There is often more accurate and comprehensive material available in the form of books, periodicals, electronic databases and other materials. Patrons are encouraged to ask staff for help and advice in locating the best sources of information.

Internet use is on a first come, first serve basis. Each patron is allowed 30 minutes of time for computer use. If no one is waiting they may continue their usage up to 2 hours per day. When their computer is needed they will close all programs and leave the computer immediately.

- Parents who are concerned about their children's use of the Internet should provide guidance for their own children.
- Internet workstations are located in public areas that are shared by library users of all ages, backgrounds and sensibilities. Individuals are asked to consider this when accessing potentially controversial information and images.
- The library reserves the right to ask individuals to discontinue the display of information and/or images that may inadvertently cause offense to others.
- Any illegal activity, including copyright violation, illegal or unauthorized entry into computer files or programs, or access to materials deemed legally obscene is prohibited.
- Using Three Forks Community Library computers for purposes that may be interpreted as abuse, harassment or intimidation is prohibited.
- Minors should not reveal personal information without parental or guardian permission when accessing the Internet, using e-mail, or engaging in chat room activities.
- Users may send and receive e-mail, but the library does not provide or regulate accounts. Free e-mail services are available from many sources on the Internet.
- Library staff is able to offer only minimal assistance in accessing the Internet.
- Saving to library computer hard drives is not allowed, but patrons may save to removable storage.
- Peer to Peer (P2P) file sharing will not be allowed.

Users may print from library computers. Printouts cost \$.15 per sheet. When printing from the Internet, it is not easy to know how many pages will print. Please ask the librarian to help you determine the number of pages that will print. If you don't ask for help in determining the number of pages you will print, you must pay for all pages printed. No exceptions.

Filters

The Internet is a dynamic resource containing vast amounts of information and a small percentage of potentially offensive sites. Due to the nature of the way filters operate, there currently is no filter which does not inadvertently block Constitutionally protected material. Many of these unintentionally blocked sites contain valid and valuable information. Nor do filters block all potentially offensive sites.

Therefore, Three Forks Community Library does not use filters for Internet stations. However, if a patron wishes to use a filter, many Internet search engines offer filtered searching as an option.

Wi-Fi Internet Access

The library offers free Wi-Fi (wireless) Internet access to patrons bringing in their own wireless-equipped laptops.

What you need to know about using the library's wireless network:

- You are responsible for the configuration of your own equipment TFCL staff will not provide any assistance or recommendations regarding configuring or troubleshooting your equipment.
- No printing services are available.
- Audio output must be muted or directed to your headphones.
- The coverage area is the whole building and outside parking areas. Signal strength and connection speed may vary in some areas.
- A wireless connection is less secure than a wired connection. Users are responsible for understanding the risks. TFCL cannot assure the security of your data when you use any of the publicly available PCs or the wireless network.
- External power sources will not be available for those using wireless access outside the library.

Any activity that violates library policy regarding library-owned computers is also prohibited on user-owned equipment that is connected to the wireless network. Violation of any part of these policies may result in loss of Internet and/or library computer privileges.

Adopted October 2008

Reviewed and approved October 13, 2009

Reviewed and approved July 11, 2016

Reviewed and approved December 13, 2017