



Section 5:4
Patrons

**5:4 Policy on Computer and
Internet Acceptable Use**

The Alleghany Highlands Regional Library provides computers, Internet, and Wi-Fi access in support of the Library's mission.

1. The Library's public computers are available for use by patrons in good standing who hold a current library card. Computer use is limited to one (1) hour. Time limits may be extended at the Library's discretion if there is no other patron waiting. Public computer access, under certain circumstances and subject to rules established by the Library Director, may be extended to users who do not hold library cards.
2. Library cards are not required for patrons to connect their personal laptop computers or other devices to the Library's public access Wi-Fi network. Patrons using the public Wi-Fi network are responsible for the troubleshooting and support of their personal computers and other devices.
3. Patrons under the age of 18 must have a parent's or guardian's written approval, signed in the presence of library staff, to use the AHRL public access computers. Parents or guardians are responsible for supervision of information selected and/or accessed by their children.
4. Patrons abusing or damaging computer equipment, software, or data may lose their computer privileges. Patrons will be responsible for the cost of repair and/or replacement of the damaged equipment.
5. Patrons are not permitted to install personal software on any public computers.
6. Patrons are required to use headphones to listen to audio/video files while inside the Library. Headphones are available for purchase at the Circulation Desk.
7. Infants or toddlers may not sit on your lap while using the adult computers.
8. Cell phone use is not permitted at the computer terminals.
9. Food and drinks are not permitted in the computer areas.
10. Printing service from public computers is available at the rates established on the Fee Schedule. Printing service is not available from personal devices using public Wi-Fi.

11. Library staff is not able to provide intensive assistance to Internet users. Staff may be available to assist a patron with getting started, and if possible, will return later to check on progress.

In compliance with the Children's Internet Protection Act and Virginia Code §42.1-36.1 filtering software has been installed on all of the Library's public Internet stations and public Wi-Fi. Filtering software is designed to block access to Internet sites deemed to contain pornographic or obscene content or materials deemed harmful to minors. The Library recognizes that filtering/blocking technology is not a completely reliable means of protection from materials that may be offensive, controversial or illegal.

In accordance with the Children's Internet Protection Act, the Library Board of Trustees has authorized library employees to disable or otherwise bypass the content filter protection measure at the request of patrons age 18 or older to enable access for bona fide research or other lawful purposes. Wi-Fi access is filtered at the same level as the public computers. Wi-Fi filtering cannot be bypassed, regardless of the patron's age.

Library patrons and staff are prohibited from using the Library's computers for any of the following purposes, which may result in legal consequences:

- Violation of any applicable federal, state, or local laws.
- Accessing child pornography, obscenity, and materials harmful to juveniles.
- Sending, receiving, viewing, downloading, posting, publishing, or displaying any obscene, profane, threatening, illegal, or other inappropriate material.
- Threatening illegal or immoral acts, intimidating, harassing, bullying, or coercing others.
- Gaining or attempting to gain unauthorized access to any computing, information, or communications devices or resources.
- Disruption or unauthorized monitoring of electronic communications.
- Unauthorized copying of copyrighted or other protected material.
- Violation of computer system security.
- Unauthorized use of computer accounts, access codes, or network identification numbers assigned to others.
- Violation of software license agreements.
- Violation of another person's or party's privacy.
- Any and all other matters which the Library, in its sole discretion, and in consideration of the best interests of the public, determines to be unacceptable purpose.

It is the responsibility of the user to remain within the legal parameters of Internet usage and any violation of the Library's Computer Use and Internet policy will result in a patron's computer privileges being revoked.

The Library is not responsible for the Internet's quality, informational accuracy, authoritativeness, timeliness, or usefulness for a particular purpose. The Library also

assumes no responsibility for any damages, direct or indirect, arising from use of its connection to the Internet or other electronic resources.

Copies of this policy are available to all patrons at the Circulation Desk.

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