

Altoona Area Public Library Internet Safety and Use Policy
Adult Internet Guidelines

Philosophy:

The Altoona Area Public Library is committed to providing free and open access to information in a wide variety of formats for all ages. The Internet, as an information resource, enables the Library to provide information beyond the confines of its own collection. It allows access to ideas, information, and commentary from around the globe.

Policy:

Patron agrees to this Acceptable Use Contract by using the Library's resources to access the Internet.

The Library offers free access to the Internet for those who have an Altoona library card. If there are fines on the card, a significant payment - at the discretion of the Executive Director - must be made toward the balance before one can use the Internet. A library card entitles you to up to a maximum of 2 hours per day or one hour if there are other patrons waiting to use the Library's Internet computers. Visitors from out of town are welcome to buy temporary Internet access for a fee and will be allowed Internet access for up to 2 hours for one day. All patrons under high school age must have an adult present while using the Adult computers. The supervising adult must check out the computer. All patrons under age 18 must also have a parental consent form signed and on file. The four computers in the YA area of the Library are reserved for teen patrons ages 12-18 only.

Illegal uses of Library computers:

- The Internet is a vast worldwide network with very few restrictions or limitations. The Altoona Area Public Library cannot be responsible for offensive material that may appear on the Internet. As an Internet user you and you alone are responsible for the information you choose to view. Keep in mind that it is a felony offense in the state of Pennsylvania "To display or cause to display any explicit sexual material...on any...viewing screen in such manner that the display is visible...in any establishment where minors, as part of the general public, may be exposed to view all or any part of such materials." (Penna. Crimes Code - Sect. 5903.) Minors must be protected from harmful matter. Minors can obtain information about appropriate online behaviors from a Library staff member.
- Misuse of the computer or Internet access, including personal devices using AAPL's wireless access, will result in the loss of computer privileges, potential loss of library privileges and possible prosecution. Such misuse includes, but is not limited to, viewing material which is obscene or "harmful to minors". The U.S. Federal Courts and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania State Law have set forth definitions of "obscenity" and what is "harmful to minors". "Obscenity" is limited to bestiality and child pornography. "Harmful to Minors" involves materials or performances that involve explicit sexual materials that depict nudity, sexual conduct or sadomasochistic abuse and appeal predominantly to prurient, shameful or morbid interest of minors, is offensive to prevailing standards in the adult community and taken as a whole lacks serious literary, artistic, political, educational or scientific value for minors. Pennsylvania Obscenity Statute - 18 Pa.C.S. 5903
- Users will not use AAPL resources for illegal activities: sending spam; hacking into the library computer system or any other computer system; damaging or attempting to damage computer equipment or software; interfering with systems operations, integrity or security; gaining unauthorized access to another person's files; sending harassing messages to other computer users; altering or attempting to alter the library computer's settings; and violating copyright laws and software licensing agreements.

Not allowed: video chatting, torrent downloading, multi-player and complex gaming.

We reserve the right to limit viewing of websites which use large amounts of bandwidth.

The following ethical standards must be adhered to:

- No copyrighted material may be copied
- Users must not do anything which will impede the use of the Internet by others or cause damage to Library equipment and/or software. (Users will be liable for repair or replacement costs.)

The Library does what it can to keep our computer equipment virus- free, however, we cannot be responsible for any viruses that may be transmitted via Internet files.

Users may not turn equipment on or off, change settings on the computer, or load personal programs onto the computer. Failure to comply could result in loss of your Internet privileges.

Personal devices such as iPods, Nooks, MP3 players, phones etc. may be used with the Library's computers at the patron's own risk.

Patrons must bring their own flash drives for transferring information from a document to the Internet. Any personal information left on the computers is the sole responsibility of the patron.

Black & white printouts and color printouts are available for a fee. Flash drives, CDs, and earphones are available for purchase at the Customer Service Desk.

Failure to comply with all of the above guidelines may result in the loss of Internet privileges.

Acceptable Use Contract

I, _____, have read the Guidelines for using the Internet at the Altoona Area Public Library and agree to the terms outlined therein. I understand that the Altoona Area Public Library cannot be responsible in any way for what I may or may not find on the Internet. I also agree not to engage in any illegal, unethical, or destructive activities while using the Library's computer equipment or wireless network.

Signature _____

Date _____

Parent's Consent Form

I have read and understand the Guidelines for the use of the Internet at the Altoona Area Public Library. My son/daughter, _____ has my permission to access the Internet via the Library's computers. I will be responsible for any supervision of my child's Internet usage and will not hold the Library or librarians responsible for monitoring areas of the Internet that my child may choose to explore.

Signature _____

Date _____

Approved by the Altoona Area Public Library Board of Trustees: January 27, 2016