

Spring Township Library Association Internet and Computer Use Policy

The public libraries of the Township of Spring are committed to the promotion of lifelong learning. As part of that commitment, each library will provide public access to the diverse and unique resources available via the Internet and the World Wide Web. Parents and/or guardians, not the library staff, are responsible for the information selected and/or accessed by children.

Children and the Internet

The *Children's Internet Protection Act* (pub.L 106-554) requires that a library receiving federal funds must "have in place a policy of Internet safety for minors that includes the operation of a technology protection measure with respect to any computers with Internet access...." In compliance with this provision of federal law, the public libraries have installed a filtering mechanism on all computers to protect young users from inappropriate material.

Parents are reminded that filtering is not foolproof. It diminishes the likelihood that searchers will inadvertently retrieve text or images that they may find offensive, but does not completely eliminate that possibility. Filters may also block access to sites that users would consider both inoffensive and useful. Parental supervision of young children searching the Internet is strongly advised.

Rights of Adults

Adults (those 17 and older) may request unfiltered access to the Internet for any purpose that does not violate the law or the libraries' policies. Library staff may not disable the filter on patron-owned laptops or other wireless access devices.

Right to Privacy

All library users have the right to expect that their information-seeking activities in the library are private and confidential. No records of Internet use by any identifiable minor or adult user are retained.

Conditions and Terms of Use

1. Information available via the Internet may be protected by copyrights or trademarks. Use of such information must not violate any copyright or trademark law.

2. Because the Internet allows access to ideas, information and commentary from sources around the world, the libraries cannot control its content. Therefore, individual users must accept responsibility for determining the validity and accuracy of information located on the Internet. The libraries are not responsible for any use made of information obtained from Internet resources.
3. The Internet and its available resources may contain material and ideas that are controversial and conflict with the personal beliefs of users. Parents or guardians, not library staff, are responsible for the information selected and/or accessed by their children. Parental supervision of children searching the Internet is advised. Minors must have a library Internet Use agreement form on file, which must be signed by their parents if the child is under the age of 18. When using Internet access computers, children 10 and under must be accompanied by an adult.
4. Viewing and/or transmitting of certain information in the public library may be considered improper in time, place or manner. Libraries reserve the right to terminate an Internet session that disrupts library services or involves user behavior that violates library policy. The following procedure will be used in the event of a problem:
 - a. First Occurrence – Patron will receive a verbal warning and a notation will be added to the patron's record.
 - b. Second Occurrence - Patron will receive written notice of warning.
 - c. Third Occurrence – Patron will be restricted from computer use for six months. After that time, Patron may petition the library board of trustees for reinstatement of privileges.
5. Patrons may not use public library Internet connections for any commercial or for-profit purpose.
6. A cost-recovery fee for print-outs is \$.10 per black & white per page and \$.50 per color page; a page is defined by a single side of paper.
7. Computer use may be limited after their initial thirty-minute period if patrons are waiting for a computer. Portable computing devices (PCDs) are available for in-library use only. These devices, PCDs, are checked out to the patrons account while in use. A driver's license or State ID will be retained at the circulation desk until the laptop is returned.
8. Computer privileges are suspended for anyone owing over \$10.00 or more in fines or fees or for those with unpaid fines from the previous calendar year.

*Adopted at a regular and open meeting of the Board of Directors of Spring Township Library on November 1, 2005.
Revised and approved at a regular and open meeting of the Board of Directors of Spring Township Library Association on May 12, 2011.*

User Responsibilities

1. Users will sign an Internet Agreement form. Agreements for those under 18 years of age will require parent or guardian signature.
2. Users must observe time limits and other procedural guidelines set by individual libraries for use of the Internet terminals.

Staff Assistance

The library staff has received training in Internet searching and is capable of offering basic instruction on how to navigate. However, due to limited staffing and time constraints, patrons are encouraged to take the initiative and explore on their own.