Purpose

The public libraries of Berks County are committed to the promotion of lifelong learning. As part of that commitment, the Library will provide public access to the diverse and unique resources available via the Internet.

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 Library cannot control its content. Individual users must accept responsibility for determining the validity and accuracy of information located on the Internet. The Library is not responsible for any use made of information obtained from internet sources.

3. The Internet and its available resources may contain material of a controversial nature. Parents or guardians are responsible for the information selected and or accessed by their children. Parental supervision of children searching the Internet is advised. Library staff are not responsible for supervision or content of Internet searches. **Children ten and younger must be accompanied by an adult.**

4. Viewing of certain materials in the Library may be considered improper. Depictions of violence, abusive or offensive behavior, obscene, or defamatory materials will be removed. Further materials that may be modified or removed include the following but not limited to: discrimination based on race, color, religion, national origin, sex, disability, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, creed or ancestry, personal attacks, insults or threatening language, potentially libelous statements, plagiarized or copy-written materials, private personal information without the consent of the individual, comments unrelated to the Library, it's mission or activities, commercial promotions or spam.

5. Patrons may not use Library Internet connections for any commercial or for-profit purpose, political campaigning, organized political activity and fundraising for any charitable organization. Fundraising activities may be posted online for the purposes of raising funds for the Friends of Berks County Libraries. Prior authorization and approval is needed for other fundraising activities online.

6. Patrons must have their Library card scanned before using the Internet. Patrons must sign, and Internet Agreement form at the Womelsdorf Community Library and have not blocks ($10 or more owed to the Library) on their card.

7. Fees for printouts will be charged as follows: 20 cents per sheet for black and white printouts, 50 cents per sheet for color printouts.

8. Patrons 18 and older will have access to Facebook. Patrons younger than 18 are not allowed on Facebook and will be assigned an Internet computer where Facebook is blocked.

9. Patrons 18 and older may check out a laptop computer with a valid Library card to use in the Library building. The laptop computers are not allowed to leave the building and failure to return the laptop will result in charges to the patron's card for the value of the laptop computer. The Library patron will be charged for any damages to the laptop computer.

10. Violation of any these conditions of use may result in the termination of social media accounts managed by the Berks County Public Libraries. BCPL reserves the right to ban or block users who have violated these policies.

    Users may report violations to BCPL via webmaster@berks.lib.pa.us

Children and the Internet

As with more traditional resources and the Internet the Library does not act in place of a parent or guardian. Parents or guardians assume responsibility for deciding what Library resources are appropriate for children.

Library staff will seek to limit exposure of children to materials of an explicit sexual nature using the iPrism filtering software, monitoring use of the computer terminals and intervening online when necessary. Staff monitoring, or filtering software does not offer absolute protection against the possibility that children may encounter sexually explicit materials while online. Parental supervision of children searching the Internet is strongly advised.

Social Media

The Library does not collect, maintain or otherwise use the personal information stored on any third-party site in any way other than to communicate Library related information.

Usage of social media sites about the Library, related subjects and issues are intended to create welcome and inviting spaces where the Library users can interact with Library Staff and other Library users.

By posting on a Berks County Public Library site you expressly grant permission to BCPL to use your name, profile picture and posted content without compensation. BCPL reserves the right to reproduce comments, posts, pictures and messages in other public venues. All content will remain in context. Messages and postings on BCPL social media sites may be considered records subject to public access under the Right-to-Know-Law.

Users may remove themselves at any time from Library sites or follower's lists. Users should also be aware that third party sites have their own privacy policies and should proceed accordingly.

Limitations

The Library does not provide access to subscription services, email, UseNet news or chat lines.

User Responsibilities

1. Users will sign an Internet use agreement; agreements for those under 18 years of age will require a parent or guardian's signature. The parent or guardian must be physically present in the Library to sign.

2. Users must observe a time limit of 60 minutes and other procedural guidelines set by the Library for use of the computer terminal.

3. Users are responsible for damages to equipment beyond what occurs with normal usage. Hardware and software may not be abused, modified or destroyed.

4. Patrons who bring their own laptop computers for use in the Library must follow the Library's internet policy and Librarians will not unblock sites or in any way handle the patron's personal laptop computer. The Library is not responsible for any damages that occur by using the Libraries network.

Staff Assistance

Womelsdorf Library staff members have received training in Internet searching and can offer basic instruction on how to navigate. Library patrons should not expect staff members to guide them through every stage of a search. Patrons must be willing to take the initiative and explore on their own.