

Computer and Internet Use Policy

Policy

The Altamont Free Library provides Internet access and personal computing resources to its patrons. While the Internet provides useful and interesting information, it also contains inaccurate, controversial and offensive material. The Library is not responsible for the accuracy, authenticity or suitability of Internet content. The Library is not responsible for any loss or damages, direct or indirect, resulting from its connection to the Internet or from any other use of its personal computing resources. Users should be aware that the Internet is not a secure medium and that third parties may be able to obtain information regarding users activities. The Library will not release information on the use of specific Internet resources by members of the public, except as required by law or when necessary for the proper operation of the Library.

Procedure

To maximize availability of this service for all patrons, the following procedures and guidelines are used.

1. Patrons must sign in at the Circulation Desk and access is granted on a first come, first served basis.
2. Use is limited to one hour if there are users in excess of the number of computers available.
3. No more than two individuals may use a computer station at a time.
4. There is a charge for printing.
5. Discs needed to save files are the responsibility of the patron.

Restrictions

1. Patrons may not send, receive or display text or graphics that may be reasonably be construed as obscene or disruptive by Library Staff or patrons.

Children age 10 and under must be accompanied by an adult when using the Internet.

2. Parents and guardians have the sole right to decide what is appropriate use for their child.

The Altamont Free Library cannot be held responsible for monitoring a child's use of the Internet.

3. Violating system security (hacking) is prohibited.
4. Violating federal, state or local law, e.g. copyright or child pornography is prohibited.
5. Using personal software on Library equipment is prohibited.
6. Damaging equipment, software or data is prohibited.
7. Distribution of unsolicited advertising is prohibited.
8. Invasion of the privacy of others is prohibited.
9. Engaging in activity that is harassing or defamatory is prohibited.

Violation of the above restrictions may result in loss of computer access.

Guidelines for Use by Minors

To address the safety and security of minors (individuals who have not attained the age of 17, Children's Internet Protection Act) when using electronic mail, chat rooms and other forms of direct electronic communications, the Library recommends the following safety guidelines.

Users under the age of 17 should:

1. Always ask their parent's permission before using their full name, address, telephone number, or school name anywhere on the Internet.
2. Tell a parent or adult that they trust if they see something frightening or that they do not Understand.
3. Never respond to messages or password online without parental approval.
4. Never give a credit card number or password online without parental approval.
5. Never arrange to meet in person someone they have met online unless they discuss it with their parents and are accompanied by an adult.

Adopted August 11, 1997

Revised and amended January 14, 2008