



Internet Use Policy

Content of information—Many resources on the Internet are useful, but some provide content that is obscene or depicts real-life graphic violence. Such content is inappropriate for this public setting, especially because computers are centrally located and young children move throughout the building. Library employees are required to end an Internet session* under these conditions: 1. When an average person applying contemporary community standards would find that the content appeals to the prurient interest, or portrays real-life graphic death or extreme violence, or 2. When the content depicts or describes, in a patently offensive way, sexual conduct as outlined in Iowa Code 728.1. Offenders will lose FPL privileges for up to one year. Patrons may appeal by addressing the full Library Board at a regularly scheduled meeting.**

Children's use of Internet—Parents or legal guardians choose whether to sign a form permitting their children to use the Library's Internet computers. Parents or legal guardians, not FPL, are responsible for the Internet information selected or accessed by their children.

Laws—All users must comply with local, state and federal laws while using the Internet.

Access—Those who reside within the Library's service area must have an FPL card to gain Internet access. The system blocks cardholders who have account balances of \$5.00 or higher, or whose materials are overdue 60 days or longer. Guest passes are available for short-term, nonresident visitors who provide current photo ID and contact information.

Music and video files may be accessed via YouTube and other websites, and Library computers are configured so the sound is inaudible to others. Ear buds are available at cost; inquire at the front desk.

User Limit—There is a limit of two users per computer at a time, and each of them must have a signed Internet User Agreement on file. The person whose card is being used must be present at the computer during the entire session.

Time Limit—If a user leaves a computer for more than five minutes during a session, s/he forfeits that session and the computer is automatically assigned to the next person in the reservation queue.

To provide service to as many people as possible, the Library offers 15- and 60-minute sessions; up to 120 minutes per day. As the end of a 60-minute session approaches, the computer offers an additional hour in 15-minute increments ... unless someone is waiting or the Library is about to close.

Alterations—Users are not permitted to circumvent Library software, to permanently delete or modify Library software or hardware, or to install software, download programs, or save files onto Library computers. If alterations are detected, the user may be billed for labor and/or parts required for restoring the system. Please notify the Library staff of any circumventions caused by you or others.

Confidentiality—It is not the Library's practice to maintain a history of customers' computer use. At the end of each session, it is important for users to log off properly, to ensure that records are erased. Proper logoff causes the computer to wipe itself clean of changes and restore its original configuration.

Email—Users may read and send e-mail if they know the means of access and Internet address for their private accounts.

Charges—Users must not incur any charges to FPL through access to fee-for-service providers, online shopping, or other Internet uses. Earbuds, black and white printouts, and color printouts, are available at reasonable cost.

Personal Information—Entering personal information on the Internet is strictly the responsibility of the user. FPL is not responsible for the loss or theft of personal information such as birth dates, social security numbers, bank account numbers, or credit card numbers.

Personal equipment—For reasons of liability, Library employees are not permitted to repair or configure users' laptops, flash drives, or other hardware. FPL is not responsible for theft of personal equipment or other belongings left unattended.

Staff Assistance—Library staff will assist users as time and ability permit.

Reservations—Advance reservations for the one-hour computers may be placed by phone once per calendar week. If the user arrives late, the software holds a reservation for five minutes only. (We do not take advance reservations for the 15-minute computers.)

Restrictions—The Library reserves the right to deny access to the Internet or any other Library equipment or service to anyone who does not comply with Library policies and guidelines.

*Employees are expected to end the Internet session whether access is provided via a Library computer or a patron's own device. In the event of non-cooperation, police support may be enlisted.

**Library Bylaws state that, "Non-board members who wish to address the Board should request a place on the agenda not later than Wednesday prior to a board meeting. The request may be directed to the President, Secretary, or Library Director. The Board is not obligated to act upon any complaint or suggestion at the meeting at which it is presented."