

Allenstown Public Library Internet Access Policy

The Allenstown Public Library provides computers and wireless Internet access to the community. The Library affirms the rights and responsibility of parents to determine and monitor their children's use of library materials and resources. The Internet is a powerful tool for finding information, but other library resources may be more appropriate for locating some information in a timely manner. The Internet user must evaluate the validity, accuracy, and appropriateness of the information found on the Internet. Library employees can assist patrons who would like help evaluating Internet resources.

Computers available to the public that can be used to access the Internet must be shared by library users of all ages, backgrounds, and sensibilities. Since staff cannot consistently and effectively monitor the public's Internet use, customers are asked to be sensitive to others' values and beliefs when accessing potentially controversial information and images. Parents of minor children must assume responsibility for their children's use of or exposure to the Internet through the library's connection. The library does not attempt to restrict Internet sites. While constitutionally protected speech and information are available for access by all library patrons, the library must be mindful and respectful of the rights of other patrons (particularly children) not to be inadvertently exposed to material and images that they (or their parents) may find unsuitable. In this regard, the following guidelines will be in effect regarding Internet access:

Library computer workstations may not be used to view or transmit sexually explicit material or any other material that is not constitutionally protected or to conduct other illegal activity.

Any library staff member who observes a person viewing such material will direct that person to refrain from viewing such material. Any person who refuses to comply with these directions will be asked to leave the library premises. After the initial warning, if a patron continues to view or send inappropriate images, the patron's computer access privileges may be suspended or revoked.

Users are cautioned that because security in an electronic environment such as the Internet cannot be guaranteed, all transactions, files, and communications are vulnerable to unauthorized access and use and should be considered public.

Internet Usage Guidelines

1. Any patron of the Allenstown Public Library may use the public computers.
2. The library reserves the right to limit usage during busy times.
3. Computer users must abide by the library code of conduct.
4. Patrons may print pages to the printer for .25 per page and .50 per page for color. Users must pick up prints and pay at the Circulation desk.
5. Our public computers are easily seen by library staff and other patrons. To maintain a comfortable environment for all library users, viewing and/or displaying graphic sexual or violent images is not allowed.

6. Damage or problems caused by a user's device connected to a library computer or network may result in costs being charged to the responsible person. If intentional, future computer and library privileges will be denied.
7. Library computers may not be used for illegal activities. Users must respect the legal protections of data and software provided by copyright and license law.
8. Assistance will be available as staff time and experience permits.
9. Any files saved to the hard drive are temporary and may be lost when the patron logs out. During the day, the computers are rebooted, and all files are deleted.
10. The Internet offers access to a wealth of material that is personally, professionally, and culturally enriching to individuals of all ages. However, it is an unregulated medium with a highly diverse user population. The library cannot control or monitor the vast amount of material accessible via the Internet, and it is possible that individuals may view or access information they personally find offensive or disturbing. Users must accept responsibility for determining the suitability of content for themselves and their children.
11. The library provides password-protected wireless ("WiFi") Internet access that can be used by anyone using a WiFi-capable device who knows the password. The library takes no responsibility for the security or content of materials transmitted, received, or intercepted on the library's WiFi access. It is recommended that people use password-protected Wi-Fi for better online security, but these passwords are publicly published locally.