



Public Computer & Internet Use Policy

Policy No. 3B

1. Purpose

As part of the Library's strategic plan, the Hodgkins Public Library District (HPLD) will ensure patrons have high-speed access to the digital world with no unnecessary restrictions or fees to ensure that everyone can take advantage of the ever-growing resources and services available through the Internet.

2. Access and Accuracy of Information

All HPLD patrons have the right to equitable access to the library's resources, including computers and Internet access. The library employs time management and reservation software to ensure patrons receive their full time allotment each day and that wait times for computers are at a minimum. Patron accounts must be in good standing in order to utilize the public computers.

While there are many high quality, safe and useful websites, there are numerous sites that are not only unverified and unsafe, but potentially inappropriate for viewing in a public setting. Though the Library filters pornographic content on public computers, all patrons must browse at their own risk. The Library is not responsible for personal information that is lost or stolen online and the library staff is not capable of constantly monitoring patrons' computer use or protecting any users from entering dangerous or fraudulent websites.

3. Confidentiality

HPLD patrons have the right to confidentiality in the public use of the Internet to the extent possible given proximity of other patrons, staff, and multiple patrons' use of workstations. Any documents or information stored by a patron will not be saved long-term and staff will make no attempt to record patron browsing activity.

4. User Agreement

By using Internet and/or wireless services at the Library, patrons agree to abide by this policy and all behavior guidelines and procedures relating to it.

All patrons are expected to access and use the Internet in a lawful and respectful manner. Violations of the Library's policy and procedures may result in the loss of computer access privileges and may also be subject to prosecution by local, state, or federal authorities. Examples of prohibited activity include but are not limited to:

- Use of the Internet in any way which violates a local, state or federal law (including copyright law)



- Use of the Internet for any purpose which results in the harassment of others (e.g. cyberbullying, revenge porn)
- Viewing pornography, which is considered by most people to be inappropriate for a public setting where minors may be present
- Destruction of, damage to, or unauthorized alteration of the library's computer equipment, software, or network security procedures
- Propagation of malicious software
- Installation of any software on library computers
- Use of the Internet in any way which violates licensing and payment agreements between the library and network/database providers

Furthermore, by using the Internet services through the Hodgkins Public Library District, users agree that the library will not be held responsible for:

- Any indirect, consequential, special, or punitive damages or losses which may arise in their use of the Internet
- Accuracy, appropriateness, or suitability of any materials or information retrieved, displayed, or printed
- The loss or corruption of a patron's files

5. Children/Minors

As with library materials, restriction or regulation of a child's access to the Internet is the responsibility of the parent or legal guardian. The Hodgkins Public Library supports the right of all library users to access information and will not deny access to the Internet based solely on age. However, the library recognizes that the Internet may contain material that is inappropriate for children. Parents/legal guardians may disallow their child's access to computers by informing library staff. Library staff is unable to monitor children's internet use therefore it is the responsibility of parents/legal guardians to monitor and supervise their children's use of the Internet. Parents/legal guardians are encouraged to discuss with their children issues of appropriate Internet use and safety. No child under the age of eight (8) may be left unsupervised per the Unattended Children Policy.

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