Approved by the Wallkill Public Library on 11/02/2026

Wallkill Public Library

Computer Use Procedures & Internet Access Policy

Computer Use Procedures

Adult and juvenile patrons ages 14 and older may use the public access computers. Public computers are available to use by children for homework, research and recreation. Acceptable recreational activities include, but are not limited to, internet surfing, online games, watching videos and listening to music, online chat, and social networking sites such as X, Instagram and Meta. **Note:** If a child has an account with one of these sites it will not be the responsibility of the library staff to determine if they should be on the site based on their age and the site's Rules of Use.

Furthermore, the following general rules apply. Failure to comply with these rules may result in suspension or loss of computer access privileges, and/ or temporary suspension of the patron's library privileges.

- Black and white printouts are ten cents per page for Letter size prints and twenty cents for Legal size prints. Color printouts are thirty cents per page for Letter size prints and forty cents for Legal size prints.
- Patrons are reminded to sign out of any secure websites requiring a login and password. The library is not responsible for safeguarding patron private information left open and unattended on public access computers. See the **Privacy** section below for more information.
- You will be responsible for all your printed pages.
- Only one person will be allowed per computer.
- No unsuitable graphic material allowed.
- Playing audio on computers so that others can hear is prohibited. Headphones are required, and are available at the Circulation Desk.

Additional rules apply for computer access in the Children's Room:

- The Children's Room provides computers for use by children and teens up to 14 years of age. Preschoolers and non-readers will need a parent or guardian to monitor and assist them with the computer.
- Preference will be given to children under the age of 14 for computer usage in the Children's Room, since those 14-years-old and up are able to use the public access computers on the first floor.
- Children's Room staff reserve the right to limit computer time.

Children's Use of the Internet Policy

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The Wallkill Public library agrees with the view of the American Library Association, as stated in the Library Bill of Rights, that "a person's right to use a library should not be denied or abridged because of origin, age, background or views." Although the Library recognizes that patrons may encounter sites on the Internet that they regard as objectionable, offensive or possessed of content they deem inappropriate for children, the staff cannot monitor children as they explore the information resources, either print or electronic, available in the library. That type of supervision is the right and responsibility of the child's parent or legal guardian. We expect that parents or caretakers of children will guide them in their exploration of the Internet in the same way that they provide guidance in the child's choice of reading, listening or viewing other materials.

Firewalls & Filtering Software

Firewalls and filtering software has been installed on all computers within the library. These applications have been added to protect the integrity of the public access computers from malware and viruses. Patrons having difficulties accessing websites or files should speak to a staff member at the circulation desk for assistance. Patrons are not allowed to circumvent, or attempt to circumvent, these protective applications.

Restrictions/Illegal Activities

Library patrons are expected to comply with all local, state and federal laws while using the Internet. Library policies on the proper use of materials also apply to electronic resources.

Illegal or restricted activities include:

- Accessing "obscene material," as defined by state and federal law.
- Damaging computer equipment or software; degradation of system performance.
- "Hacking" or alteration or destruction of software configurations.
- Violation of Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S. Code) or software licensing agreements.
- Use of workstations or networks to circumvent or violate local, state, federal or international laws.
- Engaging in any activity that is disruptive, libelous or slanderous to other people.
- Engaging in commercial activities involving on-line financial transactions, which may incur costs to the library.

Failure to adhere to these restrictions and prohibitions may result in the suspension of internet and/or library use privileges and could also subject the user to prosecution under local, state, or federal law. Any library patron whose library privileges are restricted or denied may appeal the restriction or denial to the Library’s Board of Trustees by submitting a written appeal to the president of the Board with a copy to the library director.

Privacy

The library cannot guarantee the privacy of patrons accessing the Internet, because the library's computers are in public places and the library's registration system provides staff access to the sites that are searched. Furthermore, the library and its staff are not responsible for the safety and integrity of patron information and account security gathered by third parties as a result of the patron's internet surfing behaviors.

Staff Assistance

The library staff can assist patrons with basic log-on and maneuvering strategies while surfing the internet but cannot provide extensive personal instruction on-demand. Patrons requiring comprehensive instruction are encouraged to register for technology classes or tutoring sessions offer either through the library's website or by appointment with one of our Digital Navigators. The staff is willing to assist patrons using their own computers, tablets or mobile devices. Staff will work on non-Library equipment only under patron direction, and neither the library nor its staff can be held liable if the patron's equipment is damaged.

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