

INTERNET POLICY

Eligibility for Use - Use of the Library's Internet workstations is available to valid Beloit Public Library Card holders, subject to availability. Valid card holders at ALS libraries are also eligible to use Internet workstations. Guest accounts are available for those not eligible for Beloit Public Library cards.

Patrons under the age of 16 are permitted unrestricted access to the Internet if a parent or legal guardian signs a permission form, available at the Circulation Desk. The Library assumes no responsibility for the use of the Internet by children. It is the right and responsibility of the parent or guardian to determine what is appropriate and to direct their children accordingly. Written permission for children does not apply to the Library's wireless network.

Use of the Internet - The Internet is an invaluable resource, but it also contains information that may be inaccurate, outdated, or offensive. Your use of the Internet at Library workstations carries with it a responsibility to evaluate the information you access and to read and accept the Library's guidelines for appropriate usage.

Library staff cannot control or be responsible for specific information patrons may locate on the Internet. Just as libraries do not endorse the viewpoints found in the collections, they do not do so for electronic information. The Beloit Public Library is not responsible for damages, direct or indirect, that arise from a patron's use of Internet information resources or Internet access.

Rules for Use - The Library Director is authorized to issue rules concerning, but not limited to, such topics as unacceptable behaviors, time limits on the equipment, and suspension of privileges.

In addition to following Library rules, patrons are responsible for obeying all local, state, and federal laws when using the Internet, including but not limited to copyright, fraud, obscenity, and privacy legislation. Use of the Internet access sites that are obscene, have pornography, or contain material harmful to minors is prohibited.

Privacy - Personal information used on the Internet may be at risk, and communication should not be considered secure. Patrons who are transferring confidential information, such as passwords, credit card numbers, banking information, Social Security numbers, and health data, are strongly encouraged to safeguard their information.

Fees & Filtering - No fees will be charged for access to Internet workstations or the Library's wireless network. Internet access provided by the Library is not filtered.

Wireless Connectivity - The Library provides access to a wireless network free of charge. Patrons utilizing this network are responsible for their own antivirus, antispyware, firewall, security, and privacy protection. Any attempt to gain unauthorized access to any computers or systems from the Library's wireless network is prohibited.

Parents and legal guardians are responsible for supervising their children's access to the Library's wireless network.

Network Connectivity to the Internet-The Beloit Public Library may manage the Library's network to provide equitable access to all Library Internet users. Management of the network may include, but is not limited to: time limits, bandwidth management, and data transmission limits.

Patron Assistance and Instruction – Library staff will provide assistance to patrons using Internet workstations as time and staff knowledge permit. Patrons seeking more detailed instruction are encouraged to attend a Library computer class, offered free of charge to valid cardholders from any ALS library.

Patrons are responsible for knowing how to configure and use their own equipment. Library staff members are permitted to provide general information for connecting devices, but are not responsible for providing technical assistance with wireless-enabled devices.

Breach of Policy – Violation of any aspect of this Internet Policy or the Guidelines for Acceptable Internet Use may result in the loss of Library privileges and Internet access. Actions that violate local, state, or federal laws will be referred to the appropriate law enforcement agencies. If appropriate, the Library may also pursue criminal prosecution.

History: Adopted by the Beloit Public Library Board July 17, 1996; Revised December 13, 2000; April 16, 2003; February 18, 2004; September 15, 2004; August 15, 2007; October 14, 2009; January 19, 2011; December 21, 2011; March 2013; July 2014