



Mattoon Public Library Internet Use Policy

The Internet allows users to connect to networks or resources outside the Library. The Mattoon Public Library has no control over these resources nor can the library have complete knowledge of what is on the internet. Information on the internet may be reliable and current or it can be erroneous, out of date, illegal, offensive, or controversial. As with all Library resources, it is the responsibility of the user to select or reject on-line information for his/her own use. Users are encouraged to exercise good judgment and discretion in their use of the Internet.

Use of the Internet is a privilege, not a right, and inappropriate use will result in a suspension, and eventually cancellation, of this privilege. Examples of inappropriate use include but are not limited to the following:

- Violation of the computer system integrity;
- Unauthorized tampering with hardware or software;
- Storage of data to anything other than a personal storage device;
- Violation of software license agreements and copyright laws;
- Violation of another user's privacy
- Use of sound or visuals which might be disruptive to others;
- Display of crude and offensive materials.

The Mattoon Public Library may suspend or terminate computer privileges in the library if staff believes that any user has violated Library guidelines. These matters will be reviewed on a case by case basis.

Illegal acts involving Library computer in resources may also be subject to prosecution by local, state, or federal authorities. The Library's rules of conduct apply to the use of its computers and access to the Internet.

The Library staff will assist patrons with Internet access as time permits but cannot offer personal instruction. Library staff is available to help patrons locate books periodicals and audio visual materials about the Internet.

Children and the Internet

The Mattoon Public Library believes that the reading and viewing activity of children is ultimately the responsibility of parents who guide and oversee their own children's development.

Parents are encouraged to read and follow these tips for "Internet-wise" parents:

- Take time to learn about the Internet.
- Explore cyberspace with your children.
- Provide clear guidelines – let your children know what topics are off-limits.
- Teach your children safety rules for dealing with strangers online and appropriate ways to deal with online businesses.

- Ask a librarian – librarians have always been experts at selecting materials for children.

Internet Filters

Internet filters are software programs that block access to material that may be considered offensive. The Mattoon Public Library does not filter the library's computers. Responsibility for viewing appropriate materials lies with the library patron.

No filtering software is totally accurate. Filters may falsely block constitutionally protected speech or they may fail to block access to objectionable material. We expect our users to be responsible for their own viewing actions; privileges will be revoked for abuses.

Questions, comments, or concerns can be made to the Director Ryan A. Franklin or by filling out a Compliments or Complaints form.