

Hawley Public Library Computer and Internet Use Policy

To fulfill its mission of providing public access to information of all types in a wide range of formats, Hawley Public Library (HPL) provides access to Internet resources. The Internet offers access to many valuable local, national and international sources of information. However, some information found on the Internet may be inaccurate, incomplete, dated, or offensive to some individuals. HPL does not monitor and has no control over the information accessed through the Internet and cannot be held responsible for its content. A good information consumer must evaluate the validity and appropriateness of information found.

Filtering

As required by the Children's Internet Protection Act ("CIPA"), in order to remain eligible for certain federal funding, HPL has implemented software filtering on all of its Internet-accessible computer terminals. The software installed protects against access to visual depictions of obscenity, child pornography, and, in the case of persons under the age of 17 years, materials that are "harmful to minors." Users should be aware, however, that all currently available filtering software results in a degree of both "underblocking" (*i.e.*, permitting access to certain material that falls within the foregoing categories) and "overblocking" (*i.e.*, denying access to certain constitutionally protected material that does **not** fall within the foregoing categories). HPL has attempted to select filtering software that best complies with CIPA while providing library users with the broadest possible access to constitutionally protected speech and information. HPL cannot and does not guarantee that the filtering software will block all obscenity, child pornography, or materials that are harmful to minors. Nor can the library guarantee that the filtering software will not restrict access to sites that may have legitimate research or other value. Users, both adults and minors, may request unblocking of an incorrectly blocked site. In addition, any user who is 17 years of age or older may request that the filtering software be disabled in order to obtain unfiltered Internet access for bona fide research or other lawful purpose.

Access by Minors

Parents or legal guardians must assume responsibility for deciding which library resources are appropriate for their own children. Parents or legal guardians should guide their children in use of the Internet and inform them about materials they should not use.

Rules Governing Use

In order to provide fair and equitable computer access to all users, HPL has established the following:

1. Individuals must sign in at the circulation desk for time on the computer in half hour increments. HPL reserves the right to limit the amount of time an individual may use the computer.
2. Users must respect the rights of others and abide by HPL Patron Policy at all times.
3. Staff is available for basic computer and Internet assistance; however, users must be familiar with computer and Internet use. HPL offers regularly scheduled basic computer instruction. Staff can direct users to other community resources that provide computer instruction.
4. Although all HPL Internet use computers are equipped with anti-virus software, files downloaded from the Internet may contain viruses. HPL is not responsible for damage to a user's removable media or computer, or for any loss of data, damage, or liability that may occur from use of the library's computer and/or Internet access.
5. Users may not:
 - Use their own software programs on library computers.
 - Use the network to make unauthorized entry into other computational, informational or communication services or resources.

- Distribute unsolicited advertising.
- Invade the privacy of others.
- Make any attempt to damage computer equipment or software.
- Engage in any activity that is harassing or defamatory.
- Use the library computers or Internet for any illegal activity, including violation of copyright or other rights of third parties.

Violations of the rules governing use may result in loss of computer access. Unlawful activities will be dealt with in an appropriate manner.

Wireless Use

Due to the variety of computer equipment available, library staff cannot assist you with connecting to or using our wireless service.

You cannot print to library printers using the wireless service.

You must use headphones when listening to audio files in the library.

Hawley Public Library is not responsible for any damage or losses, including theft, which may result, directly or indirectly, from using the wireless service, nor is the library responsible for any content viewed via the Internet. The library assumes no responsibility for the security of wireless device configurations or data files resulting from connection to the library's wireless service.

If you are using your computer in a manner that is inconsiderate of others, in accordance with Hawley Public Library Patron Policy and Hawley Public Library Computer Use Policy, a staff member may ask you to end your session.

The wireless service is not secure. The library strongly recommends that you run and maintain an anti-virus program and a personal firewall and that you stay current with all security patches and updates available for your operating system.

Library staff members cannot assist you with installing software or updates and are not responsible for any damage that may result from installing software or updates.

Adopted by Hawley Public Library Board of Directors, July 17, 2008