

Internet Use

The Southold Free Library's mission is to provide the community with the most current information available using a wide range of formats. The Internet is one such tool which enables library patrons to access information beyond that contained in the library's collection

Library patrons must access the Internet in accordance with federal and state regulations, including the US Patriot Act. Patrons are not permitted to use the Library's computers for any illegal or criminal purpose and are expected to act ethically and responsibly consistent with the Library's policies.

Not all Internet sources provide accurate, complete or current information. Therefore, the Southold Free Library cannot be held responsible for the content accessed on the Internet. The patron is held responsible for his/her actions using the Internet. Patrons are expected to abide by the policies below which include generally accepted rules of network etiquette.

- All patrons, adults and minors, may use the Internet from the library's computers.
- Children age 8 and under must be accompanied by an adult.
- Although the library has taken steps to screen out material inconsistent with the Southold Free Library Collection Development policy, parents/legal guardians are responsible for supervising Internet access for minors and for what they might find.
- The time limit to use the Internet in the library is 1 (one) hour when others are waiting.
- No more than two persons may use a computer at the same time.
- Wireless access to the Internet is not filtered.
- Wireless access to illegal Internet sites is prohibited.
- The use of the Internet and e-mail is not guaranteed to be private. Patrons should be careful in giving private information.
- Patrons may download and save onto discs, sticks, etc, and/or print information obtained online, abiding to copyright laws.
- The library cannot assure that data or files downloaded by users are virus free. The library is not responsible for damages to equipment or data on a user's personal computer from the use of data downloaded from the library's Internet service.

Examples of unacceptable internet use include but are not limited to:

- Damaging or destroying equipment, software, or data belonging to the library or to other users, including adding, altering, or deleting files on library equipment

- Attempting to bypass security, software and/or filtering
- Downloading files or programs onto a hard disk drive
- Adding hardware or media to library equipment
- Installing software onto library equipment
- Unauthorized use of copyrighted material and licensed data
- Violating software license agreements
- Unauthorized use of computer accounts, access codes or network identification numbers
- Using the Internet for illegal activity
- Using the Internet for harassing, stalking, libeling, slandering, or spamming other users
- Violating the rights and privacy of others
- Creating and/or distributing viruses over the internet
- Printing without paying
- Creating a disturbance because of personal viewing habits

The Library reserves the right to suspend or terminate computer access privileges to any person abusing these principles and rules.

Children's Internet Protection Act

The United States Supreme Court has upheld the guidelines set forth in the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) (Pub. L. 106-554); these guidelines must be followed by libraries that wish to receive E-rate funding.

In order to comply with CIPA, the Southold Free Library will subscribe to commercially available filtering software for its computers. The software is set to screen out sites which may reasonably be construed as obscene (Section 1460 of title 18 US code), or child pornography (Section 2256 of title 18) or harmful to minors (Section 1703, Pub. L. 106-544). Websites will be filtered if they are in conflict with CIPA guidelines. The Library Director, working with the Board of Trustees and the library staff, is free to further customize the filtering software to reflect the needs of the Southold Free Library.

Parents and guardians of minor children must assume responsibility for their children's use of the internet through library connections.

Adopted by the Board of Trustees February 11, 1998
Revised by the Board of Trustees October 27, 2004 and May 25, 2005
Revised by the Board of Trustees January 23, 2008
Reviewed by the Board of Trustees December 16, 2009
Revised by the Board of Trustees October 26, 2011