

Policy Statement

In order to serve our community, the Matilda J. Gibson Memorial Library provides computers for public use, allowing access to the Internet, the Library's online resources, Microsoft Office Software, and early literacy station/s. Wireless access to the Internet is also available. *Disclaimer: The Gibson Memorial Library is not responsible for the content on the Internet or any of its subscribed databases. This includes content from library-linked sources. Availability of information does not constitute endorsement.*

GUIDELINES & REGULATIONSPublic Computers

- Internet computers are available on a first-come, first-serve basis.
- Patrons are welcome to use the computers on both floors of the library although adults are encouraged to go upstairs, and youth to go downstairs.
- Internet access is provided in a public area shared by users of all ages, backgrounds, and sensibilities. Users should consider this when accessing potentially controversial information and images.
- The library reserves the right to ask users to discontinue the display of information and images which cause a disruption.
- A valid Gibson Memorial Library card number is required to use the Internet computers. A guest pass may be issued for the day for any user without a library account. Children under 5 (five) may use their parent's card.
- Time on the Internet computers is limited to three (3) hours per day for library card holders and 90 minutes for guest passes
- The Gibson Memorial Library complies with the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA).
- The library upholds the rights and responsibility of parents and legal guardians to determine and monitor their children's use of the library's computers, including when the child is at the library without a parent.
- No login is required to use the card catalog or Early Literacy computer/s.
- The Early Literacy computer is intended for ages two (2) and up.
- The library is not responsible for any damage or loss of data arising from using the library hardware or software.
- Only computer equipment and software owned by the library and previously installed may be used on the library's computers, with the exception of patron-owned flash drives.
- Library staff are available to answer basic computer questions but cannot provide in-depth computer training or typing services.
- Patrons wanting to save files or other data should bring an appropriate storage device; the library does not provide flash drives for patron use.
- No personal programs can be downloaded, and no personal files or programs can be saved to the library's computers or network.
- Adding, deleting, or modifying already installed hardware or software is not permitted.
- Patrons are discouraged from accessing or sending personal information, such as credit card numbers, banking information or social security numbers using the library's computers.

- Black and white printing and colored copy printing are available at the current cost per page.
- The computers will automatically log off fifteen (15) minutes before closing.
- Patron's computer sessions cannot be retrieved after logging off.
- There is no guarantee the library's computer network will be available, and privacy on the library's computers is not guaranteed.
- The library reserves the right to end computer sessions at any time for any reason.

WIRELESS ACCESS

- The library's wireless network is available for anyone with a personal device capable of connecting wirelessly.
- Patrons must understand how to configure their own devices to access the library's wireless network. Staff can answer questions and assist patrons in connecting to the library's wireless network, without touching the patron's equipment.
- The library upholds the rights and responsibility of patrons and legal guardians to determine and monitor their children's use of the library's network.
- The library cannot accept liability for any risk taken by patrons who choose to connect their personal device to the wireless network.
- Black and white printing and colored copy printing are available at the current cost per page.
- The wireless network is an open, unsecured network. There is no guarantee it will be available, and privacy on the library's network is not guaranteed.
- The library reserves the right to block access to the wireless network at any time for any reason.

VIOLATIONS

- Library computers and wireless access should not be used for unlawful activities, including, but not limited to:
 - Harassment of libeling, or slandering others.
 - Accessing obscene, unlawful and/or inappropriate content.
 - Destruction of, damage to, or unauthorized access and/or alteration of the library's computer equipment, software or network.
 - Use of electronic information networks that in any way violates city, state or federal law.
 - Use of electronic information networks that in any way violates licensing and payment agreements between the library and network/service providers.
 - Illegally using copyrighted material.
- Violations of this policy's regulations may result in loss of access to library computer resources. Disciplinary actions will be handled the following way:
 - Library staff will warn patron of the violation and request they end their session.
 - If patron ignores the staff, the session will be ended for the patron by the staff.
 - The Library Director will be notified.
 - When staff believe illegal activity has occurred, the police may be notified.

The Electronic Access Policy will be posted at each public access computer.

Adopted: November 4, 2024 (This policy supersedes previous versions dated before November 2024.)

Revised: 1/1995, 12/1999, 1/2001, 3/2004, 3/2007, 4/2010, 1/2013, 11/2021

PROCEDURES

PUBLIC COMPUTERS

- **All staff are expected to know the following:**
 - How to use the keyboard and mouse.
 - How to open programs on public computers.
 - How to navigate from one website to another, including how to access library databases.
 - How to use search engines.
 - How to start programs on the library's network and computers.
 - How to save and print files.
 - How to print from the Internet.
 - How to use a flash drive on the library's computers.
 - Basic troubleshooting issues, including, but not limited to:
 - When a webpage does not come up.
 - When the computer is not connecting to the network.
 - When monitors, keyboards or a mouse is not working.
- Staff should feel comfortable to ask another staff person for help.
- Staff should not watch what patrons are doing on the library's computers or networks.
- Staff should follow up on patron concerns with the library's computers and/or network.
- The Director will be the main contact person for the Internet Service Provider (Mediacom, ICN, etc.) and the library's IT service. In the absence of the Director, the senior staff person present may call.
- Staff should let patrons "drive" the computer. When a patron needs assistance, the library staff person will instruct, but not do the computer work themselves.
- Staff should limit assistance with medical, legal, financial and tax information. Staff can help patrons get to the websites they need.
- Staff cannot provide in-depth computer training and should be aware of the amount of time they are assisting patrons on the computer.

WIRELESS ACCESS

- Staff can instruct patrons on connecting their devices to the library's wireless network.
- Staff cannot handle patron devices.
- All staff are expected to know the following:
 - The name of the library wireless network.
 - The password for the library's wireless network (if applicable).
 - The name of the library's wireless printers.
- Due to the nature of portable devices, staff are not expected to know how to connect each one to the library's wireless network or wireless printers.

VIOLATIONS

- Staff can terminate a patron's session on a computer at any time for any reason by:
 - Giving the patron notice that their session will be ending.
 - If behavior is the issue, staff will give one (1) warning.
 - If the behavior continues, or the warning is ignored, staff will:

- Tell the patron their session has ended.
 - If the patron doesn't listen or comply, staff should then tell the patron to leave the library for the day. If they refuse, the policies should be referenced for assistance – the director made aware and the policy adhered to.
- Staff will notify others of this action.
- Staff will fill out an incident report, if applicable, detailing the reason behind the session and any other issues related to the situation (supporting documents).
- Patrons can be blocked from using our wireless network.
- Violations of this policy's regulations may result in loss of access to library computer resources. Disciplinary actions will be handled in the following way:
 - Library staff will warn patron of the violation and request they end their session.
 - If patron ignores the staff, the session will be ended for the patron by the staff.
 - The library director will be notified.
 - When staff believe illegal activity has occurred, the police may be notified.
- When a patron has a concern about another patron:
 - Staff should take down the concern by the patron, noting date, time, and location.
 - Thank the patron for bringing the issue to the staff's attention.
 - Investigate the complaint (without the individual who brought up the concern).
 - Follow the procedures outlined above.