

HAMILTON PUBLIC LIBRARY INTERNET POLICY



In accordance with our mission to provide our community with equitable access to information sources and enrichment opportunities, the Hamilton Public Library is committed to supplementing its traditional print resources with access to electronic information sources including those on the Internet. Because the Internet is enormous in its scope, is continuously changing, and is unmonitored by any single agency or authority, the Library is unable to guarantee the accuracy, currency or completeness of the information accessed. In addition, some sites may carry information that users may regard as inappropriate, controversial, offensive, or even hateful. The Library is neither responsible nor liable for the content of Internet sites. Realizing that each person encountering new ideas brings to the encounter their own standards and perceptions, the Library reminds Internet users that they access the network at their own discretion.

Children's Use of the Internet

The Hamilton Public Library agrees with the view of the American Library Association, as stated in the Library Bill of Rights, that "a person's right to use a library should not be denied or abridged because of origin, age, background or views." Although the Library recognizes that patrons may encounter sites on the Internet that they regard as objectionable, offensive or possessed of content they deem inappropriate for children, the staff cannot monitor children as they explore the information resources, either print or electronic, available in the Library. That type of supervision is the right and responsibility of the child's parent or legal guardian. We expect that parents or caretakers of children will guide them in their exploration of the Internet in the same way that they provide guidance in the child's choice of reading, listening or viewing other materials.

Filtering Software

As a member of the Mid York Library System, which is subject to federal CIPA laws, the Internet services available through the Hamilton Public Library are configured to filter malicious and illegal content on all computers. If you believe information you are trying to access has been blocked in error, please provide our staff members with the name and URL of the site in question and ask them to contact the Head of the IT department at the Mid York Library System to review the matter. Sole discretion for review and filtering decisions lies with the Mid York Library System.

Restrictions/Illegal Activities

Library patrons are expected to comply with all local, state, and federal laws while using the Internet. Library policies on the proper use of materials also apply to electronic resources.

Illegal or restricted activities include:

- Accessing "obscene material," as defined by state and federal law.
- Damaging computer equipment or software; degradation of system performance.
- "Hacking" or alteration or destruction of software configurations.
- Violation of Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S. Code) or software licensing agreements.
- Use of workstations or networks to circumvent or violate local, state, federal or international laws.
- Engaging in any activity that is disruptive, libelous, or slanderous to other persons.
- Engaging in any transactions which may incur costs to the Library.

Failure to adhere to these restrictions and prohibitions may result in the suspension of Internet and/or Library use privileges and could also subject the user to prosecution under local, state, or federal law. Any Library patron whose Library privileges are restricted or denied may appeal the restriction or denial by submitting a written appeal to the Library Director.

Time Limits

Because the Library is only able to offer a limited number of computers for public use at any one time, the Library reserves the right to impose time limits on patrons' use of the Library's computers.

Privacy

The Library cannot guarantee the privacy of patrons accessing the Internet, because the Library's computers are in public places.

Staff Assistance

Our Library staff is able to assist patrons with basic start-up and search strategies within the Internet but cannot provide extensive personal instruction on-demand. Patrons requiring or desiring more detailed or comprehensive instruction are encouraged to schedule an appointment with our Digital Coordinator. Our staff members are willing to assist patrons using their own computers, tablets, or mobile devices to the best of our ability. Library staff will work on non-Library equipment only under patron direction, and neither the Library nor its staff can be held liable if the patron's equipment is damaged.