

Computer Use Policy

Policy Statement

The Effie & Wilton Hebert Public Library offers technological access to a variety of computers, services and networks as part of its mission to provide access to information, resources, databases, and leisure reading. This support includes, but is not limited to hardware, software, data, and access to networks. Use of the Library's computers and technological resources implies acceptance of this Computer Use policy. The purpose of these policies is to provide those using the technological resources of the Library with the Library's regulations regarding access to computing resources and the Internet.

Questions about this policy and its application should be directed to the Library Director.

Regulations

These regulations apply to both adults and minors using the Library's computing resources and relate to a range of information resources, including, but not limited to: hardware, software, data, and networks, including the Internet, World Wide Web, electronic mail, chat rooms and other forms of electronic communications.

Users are responsible for adhering to all international, federal, state, and local laws and regulations regarding computing and technology resources. Users are also responsible for all other Library policies which may relate to the Library's computing resources, including: copyright, confidentiality, objectionable materials, and other relevant policies.

Users are responsible for adhering to all copyright laws for materials and software that may be accessed, downloaded, copied, etc. from any network, database or other information retrieved from the Hebert Public Library internet access. Users are responsible for knowledge of all applicable federal, state and local laws for which they may be held in violation.

The Library provides basic filtering and virus protection on its terminals, but is unable to guarantee the safety of users' data, files, storage media or connected devices. Users are advised to exercise caution and appropriate safety measures with the Library's technological resources, since unauthorized disclosure, use, and dissemination of personal identification information regarding one's self and minors is a potential danger.

It is not acceptable to use the Hebert Public Library's access to electronic information, services, and networks in such a way as to interfere with or disrupt network users, services or equipment. Such interference or disruption includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- Distribution of unsolicited advertising.
- Transmission of threatening, obscene or harassing materials.
- Propagation of malware, trojans, worms, viruses, spyware, spam, spyware, adware, scareware, crimeware, rootkits, and other malicious or unwanted software, programs, or computer contaminants.
- Damage to equipment, software or programming.
- Deletion or alteration of any existing software, programs or data.

- Hacking, cracking, phishing, spoofing, spamming, spying, identity theft, unauthorized entry to other communication devices, information, or resources, or any form of computer criminal activities.
- Using terminals for any activity that is deliberately offensive or creates an intimidating or hostile environment, including viewing material that is sexually explicit or otherwise inappropriate in a public setting.

The Library cannot act *in loco parentis*. The Library does recognize and support the rights of parents and guardians to enforce certain technology protection measures towards minors. However, the Library cannot guarantee that unauthorized minors will not access the Library's technological resources, nor, that those authorized will not come in contact with inappropriate material. Any restrictions and usage by a minor of the Library's technological resources are ultimately the responsibility of the parent or guardian. Parent or guardian Library registration is required for access by a minor to certain technological resources.

The Library complies with CIPA (Children's Internet Protection Act - Public Law 106-554) requirements. Compliance has also been approved by the Library Board on November 11, 2003, and adopted by the City of Port Neches City Council on December 18, 2003. The Library does filter Internet access for both minors and adults to certain visual depictions that are: (1) obscene (as defined in Section 1460 of Title 18, United States Code), or (2) child pornography (as defined in Section 2256 of Title 18, United States Code), or with respect to use of computers by minors, (3) harmful to minors.

CIPA defines the term "harmful to minors" to mean any picture, image, graphic image file, or other visual depiction that--

- A. taken as a whole and with respect to minors, appeals to a prurient interest in nudity, sex, or excretion;
- B. depicts, describes, or represents, in a patently offensive way with respect to what is suitable for minors, an actual or simulated sexual act or sexual contact, actual or simulated normal or perverted sexual acts, or a lewd exhibition of the genitals; and
- C. taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value as to minors.

All users must abide by §43.21 through §43.27 of the Texas Penal Code, which prohibits the intentional or knowing display of obscene and pornographic materials, while being reckless about whether a person, and especially a minor, is present who will be offended or alarmed by the display.

Library computers utilize filtering technology to block certain inappropriate or malicious websites. Users should be aware that no filtering system is perfect and some materials may be incorrectly blocked or permitted. If users identify a site or material which they believe should be blocked or unblocked from our filter, they are encouraged to report this to the staff in the administration office and the matter will be reviewed.

Users who fail to abide by the Computer Use Policy will be instructed to modify their usage behavior or terminate their computing session. Failure to comply with the policy may result in loss of computing use privileges.

All parts of this policy are subject to modification as legal requirements, technology, and other constraints change. Use of the Library's technological resources constitutes agreement to any and all changes which may occur in the future.