

13. Computer and Internet Access Policy

A. Introduction

The Mission of the Blue Island Public Library is to provide, to the residents of Blue Island and to other eligible individuals and groups, access to materials and services that meet their educational, informational, occupational, cultural, and recreational needs.

This mission “to provide” includes provision in various formats, including: personal, telephone, written, fax, and computer. Since computers are an important and growing part of our lives, the Board of Trustees has established the following as our Internet Access Policy.

Most resources available via the Internet and other electronic information networks are “global” resources rather than “local” resources. Global Internet resources enhance and supplement resources that are available locally within a library. Library users must be aware that the Blue Island Public Library does not exercise control over information obtained via the Internet and must remember the following points when evaluating information obtained via the Internet:

- Information obtained via the Internet may not be reliable and may not be obtained from a reliable source.
- Information via the Internet may not be accurate.
- Links to information on the Internet may not always be valid, and particular information sites on the Internet may sometimes be unavailable and that this unavailability often occurs unpredictably.
- Some library patrons may consider certain information obtained via the Internet controversial.

The Blue Island Public Library urges patrons to be informed consumers and carefully evaluate information obtained via the Internet. Library staff may be available to assist patrons in making judgments about the reliability or currency of certain types of Internet information sources but are unable to provide definitive analysis of particular sources due to the extremely large variety and volume of information available via the Internet.

To help the library best manage the Internet resource, Internet access to the library's computer is routed through an anti-spam, anti-spyware, anti-virus appliance that also filters pornography without over-blocking.

The Blue Island Public Library is not responsible for damages, indirect or direct, arising from a library patron's use of Internet information resources.

Library patrons have the following privileges with respect to the Internet:

- Confidentiality and privacy in the use of the Internet to the extent possible given certain constraints such as proximity to other patrons and staff in public areas
- Equitable access to the Internet
- Access to all library service policies and to discuss questions with appropriate library staff

The Blue Island Public Library staff may provide assistance to patrons in using the Internet as time and staff knowledge permits. Formal, scheduled classes in Internet use may also be available.

The Blue Island Public Library requires that library patrons using the Internet do so within the guidelines of acceptable use. The following activities are unacceptable:

- use of the Internet for any purpose that results in the harassment of other users.
- destruction of, damage to, or unauthorized alteration of the Library's computer equipment software or network security procedures.
- use of the Internet in any way that violates a Federal or State law.
- use of electronic information in any way that violates licensing and payment agreements between The Blue Island Public Library and network or database providers.
- unauthorized duplication of copy protected software or violation of software license agreements.
- violation of system security.
- behaving in a manner that is disruptive to other users including, but not limited to, overuse of computer equipment that denies access to other users.

B. Procedures

Loss of Internet use may result from any violation of this policy or the Internet User Agreement.

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- Use of electronic information in any way that violates licensing and payment agreements between the Blue Island Public Library and network or database providers.
- Unauthorized duplication of copy protected software or violation of software license agreements.
- Violation of system security.
- Behaving in a manner that is disruptive to other users including, but not limited to, overuse of computer equipment that denies access to other users.

The Blue Island Public Library supports the right of all library users to access information and will not deny access to the Internet solely on age. Children under the age of 8 (7 and under) however, must be accompanied by an adult when using the internet.

The Internet may contain material that is inappropriate for children. Parents are expected to monitor and supervise their children's use of the Internet. Library staff is unable to monitor children's use.

A parent or guardian at the Library must sign the Internet User Agreement before access is allowed to patrons under the age of 18. An Internet sticker will be placed on the patron's library card. Parents or guardians have the option not to allow their child an Internet sticker, but can obtain one for their own library card, and the child may then access the Internet with the parent or guardian present. In these cases, the parent or guardian must never leave the child unattended while using the Internet.

C. Computer and Internet User Procedures

Adults who do not have a MLS card will be charged \$1.00 for a one-time guest card. Children who come in without a card are denied use unless permission can be obtained from a parent. Adults/guardians with their own children may use the computers in the YS area.
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The Library Director will set limits on sessions, total Internet time per patron per day as required by demand, and will determine location and type of use for computers, such as two-person stations, stations for youth, etc. An individual aged 18 years or older, not accompanying his/her child may not use the YS computers and must use the Adult Services computers. Patrons who choose to print files or documents from the Internet will be charged ten (.10) cents per page for black and white copies and fifty (.50) per page for color copies.

The computers will be turned off fifteen (15) minutes before the Library closes.

Adopted: 6/98

Revised: 1/01

Revised: 6/03

Revised 5/07

Revised 7/14

D. Computer and Internet User Agreement

Adults (over 18 years old)

I have read the Blue Island Public Library Computer and Internet Access Policy and I agree to abide by that policy when using the Internet.

I accept responsibility for correct use of the computers and printers. I agree to pay for any damage I may cause to the computers and printers.

I understand that failure to abide by any part of the Computer and Internet Access Policy will result in loss of computer use and/or Internet access.

Name _____

Signature _____

Library card number _____ Expiration Date _____

Juveniles (under 18 years old)

Parent or guardian must fill out the information above for their child.

I accept full responsibility for my child and will accompany my child (under the age of 10) for all Internet use. If my child is 10 to 18 years old, I give my permission for a sticker to be placed on their library card to indicate Internet use permission.

___ I allow my child access to **filtered** Internet access in the Children's Department only.

___ I allow my child access to **unfiltered** Internet access at any Internet station in the library.

___ I **do not** allow my child access to the Internet.

Name of Parent of Guardian _____

Signature _____

Library card number _____ Expiration Date _____