

COMPUTER ACCESS POLICY

ST. PETERSBURG LIBRARY SYSTEM



Effective:
10/16/2023

Replaced policy dated:
06/16/08

Approved by:
Mika Slaughter Nelson, Director

1. GENERAL POLICY

The Library System provides patrons with computer access to facilitate research, learning, and recreational pursuits by providing access to electronic materials in accordance with the Collection Development policy. The Library System does not provide computer access for the purpose of establishing a public forum for expressive activity by internet publishers or patrons. Accordingly, library computers are to be used only for information retrieval and related library purposes, as more particularly described in this policy, and users are limited to the software that is installed or authorized by the Library System.

2. EQUITABLE ACCESS

The City of St. Petersburg Library System has a policy for computer access to ensure library members and visitors can equitably access library computers at all library locations. Free access to computers is provided within the time limits established at each library. Time limits may vary due to demand for available computers.

3. RESPONSIBILITY FOR INTERNET CONTENT

The Library System cannot control the nature or content of information accessed on the internet; nor can the library protect users from information they might find offensive. Not all information on the internet is accurate, current, or complete.

Responsibility for the use of library computers and equipment by minors rests with their parents, guardians, and caregivers. Parents and guardians can find resources at the following locations.

- Connect Safely: <https://www.connectsafely.org/parentguides/>
- National Center for Missing and Exploited Children: <https://www.missingkids.org/home>
- DOJ Keeping Children Safe Online: <https://www.justice.gov/coronavirus/keeping-children-safe-online>

4. TERMS OF USE FOR LIBRARY COMPUTERS AND TECHNOLOGY

Use of any library computer constitutes acknowledgement of and agreement to this policy, including the obligations and prohibitions set forth in this section 4. For purposes of this policy, the term “library computer” includes all related peripheral equipment and technology, including but not limited to the library network and systems, printers, copiers, scanners, software, etc.

Some internet sites may be blocked in accordance with applicable law, including the Children’s Internet Protection Act (CIPA), the Federal Universal Service Program for Schools and Libraries, and Florida Statutes section 112.22. If you think a site has been blocked in error, you may request access using the procedure described in section 5, below.

Use of a library computer constitutes express consent to monitoring, and if such monitoring reveals evidence of unlawful activity, library personnel may provide the evidence of such monitoring to law enforcement officials. Use of the library’s public network and systems, Internet, computer hardware, software, documentation, and peripheral equipment is at the user’s own risk. The library is not responsible for equipment malfunction, loss of data, nor damages to the user’s equipment, data, or electronic transactions of any type related to public use of library computer resources.

Additionally, users must comply with the following specific obligations and prohibitions, with compliance determined by library staff and filtering systems, as applicable:

- Users must comply with all federal, state, and local laws (including applicable City of St. Petersburg policies and procedures) and must refrain from use that is unlawful or gives rise to civil liability.
- Users must not infringe upon the copyright, trade secret, patent, or other intellectual property of others. The installation or distribution of pirated or other software products that are not appropriately licensed for use by the City, and the unauthorized copying of material including, but not limited to, digitization and distribution of photographs from magazines, books, music, or other copyrighted sources is prohibited.
- Users must not access, upload, post, transmit, or otherwise make available on or via the internet any material, including any message(s), that falls into any of the following categories, as defined by applicable law: obscenity, child pornography, defamation, fraud, incitement, fighting words, true threats, and speech integral to criminal conduct.
- Users must not execute any program/script/command (e.g., viruses, worms, Trojan horses, e-mail bombs, etc.), port scanning, security scanning, or password cracking with the intent to interfere with, hijack, or disable any City information system (including the library information system).

- Users must respect the privacy of others (i) by not misrepresenting oneself as another user; (ii) by not attempting to modify or gain access to files, passwords, or data belonging to others; (iii) by using public computers without damaging or altering software components of any network or database; and (iv) by using public computers without making any unauthorized entry into any other computer, network, or system and without disruption or interference with other computer or network users, services, or equipment.
- Users must use the library systems in a manner that complies with the Code of Patron Conduct, including the prohibition on making disturbances that are disruptive to the use of and/or impeding the enjoyment of the library by other patrons.

5. REQUEST TO ACCESS FILTERED CONTENT

If a user believes that library filtering systems have restricted access to internet content in a manner inconsistent with applicable law or this policy, the user may submit a Request for Reconsideration of Library Resources form. Library Staff will evaluate that request and provide the user with a written response.

6. CONSEQUENCES FOR NON-COMPLIANCE

Failure to abide by the Code of Patron Conduct and this Computer Access Policy may result in the loss of library computer privileges and/or criminal prosecution.