

Policy on Acceptable Use of the Internet

The mission of the Batavia Public Library is to provide and ensure access to materials and services to meet the lifelong learning needs of residents and organizations, as well as to create a welcoming place to gather, exchange ideas, and participate in cultural events.

The Library provides access to the Internet and encourages its use to enhance the level of services and resources available to our community in accordance with its Mission . The Library does not offer Internet service as a substitute for other information sources, but as an additional choice among the diverse resources available. The Internet links individuals to the wider world of information exchange that has become a common medium of shared knowledge.

I. Internet access connects the Batavia Public Library to the global community.

- The content of the Internet is not regulated or managed by traditional rules or laws of a single entity.
- The Library does not, and cannot, control the information available on the Internet.
- Information found on the Internet should be carefully evaluated for its reliability, accuracy and currency. Library staff is available to assist users with their Internet information needs.
- Library patrons should be aware that an online Internet session can easily be viewed and heard by others.

II. The Library requires that patrons use the Internet in a responsible manner that respects other individuals and protects the shared resources of the community.

- Patrons using the Internet must comply with all applicable municipal, Illinois , and Federal laws and regulations and all Library policies.
- Patrons using the Internet must respect the rights, dignity, privacy, and convenience of others.
- Use of the Library's workstations to access Internet sites that are obscene, child pornography, or harmful to minors is prohibited.
- Parents and legal guardians are responsible for supervising their minor children's use of the Internet at the Library. The Library urges parents and legal guardians, from the beginning, to take an active interest in their children's use of the Library and to guide their children as they deem best.
- Parents or legal guardians have the option of restricting their minor children from accessing the Internet on Library-owned computer workstations. (This does not apply to the use of mobile — notebook or laptop — computers, mobile telephones, or personal digital assistants — PDAs or palmtops — to access the Wi-Fi network.)

- The Library is not required to comply with the provisions of the Children’s Internet Protection Act (CIPA), yet offers advice and assistance to its patrons on the safe use of the Internet. (For more information on CIPA, please refer to the Library guide on this topic.)
- Use of computer workstations in Adult Services that are designated as Express Internet is limited to adults (18+ years old).
- Activities that compromise the security, efficiency, or condition of the Library’s computer resources are prohibited.
- U.S. copyright laws govern unauthorized use or distribution of copyrighted materials. Users may not copy or distribute electronic materials without the express permission of the copyright owners except as permitted by Fair Use regulations.
- Failure or refusal to comply with the provisions and requirements of this policy will result in disciplinary action up to and including the loss of Internet or Library privileges, or other consequences as defined in the latest version of the “Policy on Conduct.”
- Actions that violate federal, state, or local laws will be referred to the appropriate law enforcement agencies.

III. The Library disclaims any liability or responsibility arising from access to the Internet or use of information obtained through the Internet, or any consequences thereof.

- The Library is not responsible for Internet content or its form of presentation.
- The Library cannot guarantee the confidentiality of communications or transactions made on the Internet.
- The Library is not responsible for the security of users’ data. Users who are transferring confidential information — including but not limited to passwords, credit card numbers, online banking information, and health data — are strongly encouraged to use secure web sites (SSL) or other techniques (SSH, VPN) to safeguard their confidentiality.
- The Library is not responsible for any direct or indirect damages or charges incurred during use of the Internet at the Library.

IV. In addition to traditional access to the Internet access, the Library provides high-speed wireless fidelity (Wi-Fi) access to the Internet that is open to all visitors with a wireless-enabled device.

- The Library provides access to the Wi-Fi network free of charge.
- Users are not required to provide authentication (special encryption settings, user names, or passwords) to use the Wi-Fi network.
- Parents and legal guardians are responsible for supervising their minor children’s access to the Wi-Fi network at the Library.
- Users are responsible for knowing how to configure their own equipment. Library staff members are permitted to provide general

information for connecting devices to the wireless network, but are prohibited from providing technical assistance with wireless-enable devices, including troubleshooting problems or assisting in making changes to device's network settings or hardware configurations, based on insurance liability and warranty issues. (For more information, please refer to Library guides on connecting to the Wi-Fi network and frequently asked questions on the Wi-Fi network.)

- Printing access is not available via the wireless local area network. (For tips on printing, please refer to the Library guide on frequently asked questions on the Wi-Fi network.)
- Any attempt to break into or gain unauthorized access to any computers or systems from the Library's Wi-Fi network is prohibited.

V. **The Library will establish procedures to assist staff and patrons in the use of the Internet and to maximize the availability of the shared computer workstations. The Library reserves the right to change its policies and procedures at any time, without notice.**

Approval History:

- Supersedes the "Internet Use Policy" (originally adopted on Tuesday, 21 November 2000 ; repealed on Tuesday, 17 May 2005)
- Adopted by the Board of Trustees on Tuesday, 17 May 2005 (Ordinance 2005-006