

**BERKELEY PUBLIC LIBRARY
POLICIES**

SUBJECT: Internet Use Policy

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PURPOSE

The purpose of this administrative regulation is to set forth a policy governing the use of the Internet by patrons in any Berkeley Public Library facility, and upon which procedures for implementing this policy can be based.

POLICY

The Berkeley Public Library provides public access to the Internet to fulfill, in part, the Library's mission of developing resources and services that meet the cultural, informational, recreational, and educational needs of Berkeley's diverse, multicultural community, and of supporting the individual's right to know by providing free access to information. The Library provides internet access in three ways:

- Public computer stations
- Borrowable laptop computers for Library use only
- A wireless network available to people with their own wireless devices

This policy applies to use of each of these three services.

The Library adheres to the American Library Association's policy statement *Access to Electronic Information, Services, and Networks: An Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights*, which supports the right of individuals to choose library materials for themselves, including those in electronic formats. All Library computers must be used in accordance with this policy and the Berkeley Public Library Rules of Use. The Library must balance the goal of supporting intellectual access with that of maintaining a welcoming environment. When use of the Library's public computers, laptops, or wireless network interferes with other patrons' ability to use Library services, staff may ask patrons to change their behavior.

Responsibility for Content: The Berkeley Public Library does not monitor and has no control over the information available on the Internet and cannot be held responsible for the content, accuracy, or quality of the information retrieved. Not all information available on the Internet is accurate, complete, up-to-date, lawful, or philosophically acceptable to all individuals. The Library does not filter content on the internet.

The Library encourages parents and guardians to participate with their children in using Library resources and the Internet. The Library affirms the right and responsibility of a parent to determine and monitor their child's Internet access. Computers reserved for the exclusive use by children, or children with guardians, are available in children's areas of the Library.

The user is ultimately responsible for selecting which sites to visit, and should be aware that Library computers are in a public area where others may be involuntarily exposed to what is displayed. Computer users have no guarantee of privacy when in a public area. To

ensure a welcoming environment conducive to providing library services for the entire community, patrons are expected to exercise good judgment and consideration. Some materials, such as sexually graphic or violent materials, may be more appropriate for viewing in the privacy of one's home rather than in a public space. Patrons may be asked to change screens if their use of the internet, computers, and/or devices interferes with the ability of the Library to provide a welcoming environment for the public. Users are expected to adhere to the Library's Rules of Use. Violations may result in the loss of Library privileges.

Use of Library Equipment: Illegal activities or activities that interfere with or disrupt the network, users, services, or equipment are prohibited. Use of the Library's computers for the transmission, dissemination, and/or duplication of information is regulated under various state and federal laws. The Library expects all users to comply with such laws.

There are time limits on Library computer use per day; the limit may vary according to location and level of demand. The Library strives to provide as much access for all as possible and seeks to identify ways to enable access to the highest extent possible, given limited resources and equipment. However, violation of time limits may result in loss of Library privileges when it is deemed to disrupt access to the internet for other users.

Reviewed by:	<u>Robert Warr</u>	<u>4/12/18</u>
	Director of Library Services	Date
Approved by:	<u>Diane Lee Davent</u>	<u>4/12/2018</u>
	President, Board of Library Trustees	Date