

Technology Use

This policy applies to all users of the Upper Merion Township Library public access computers and wifi Internet.

1. To ensure that computer time is equitably allocated among computer users, the Upper Merion Township Library uses EnvisionWare's PC Reservation® – PC Access and Session Control. To access a computer session, users must enter a current Library card barcode and PIN. Anyone unable to obtain a Library card can request a temporary pass (good for only the date issued) from the front desk.
2. A 30-minute time limit comes into effect when others are waiting.
3. When computers are full, users may reserve the next available computer at the Library's Information Desk.
4. Public computers are available from opening until 10 minutes before closing, when computers will be automatically shut down.
5. To ensure the privacy of individual computer users, barcode information or data on Internet searches and software use is not tracked and cleared once a patron logs out of their session.
6. If users feel that an Internet site has been blocked erroneously by the filtering software, they should report that to a staff member. Staff can temporarily allow access to that site and will pass the site on to the MCLINC office for review.
7. Staff may limit the number of persons sitting at a single workstation.
8. Users may download files to external devices. Users may not load their own software programs onto library workstations.

User Responsibility

1. Users may not display or print images that are inappropriate for viewing within a public setting. The library expressly prohibits any use of library computers for illegal activities, including hacking, or to access material that is obscene, contains or makes reference to explicit sexual materials as defined in 18 PA. C.S. 5903, contains child pornography, or is harmful to minors.
2. Users must respect copyright laws and licensing agreements.
3. Users must respect the privacy and privileges of others.
4. Users must respect library hardware and software configurations.
5. Users must act in accordance with Pennsylvania and federal law to promote the safety and security of minors when using electronic communications.
6. Parents and legal guardians must assume responsibility for their children's use of the Internet, as with other library materials. Library staff does not act in the place of a parent to determine which materials are appropriate for an individual child.

Internet Use

The library provides public access to the resources available on the Internet and on subscription databases through computer workstations and via wireless Internet (wifi) for use with customer-owned devices. This service is intended to enhance the traditional print and audiovisual collections that have been established to meet the informational, educational and recreational needs of our community. Users are strongly cautioned, however, that the library does not control, and therefore, cannot be held responsible for the accuracy, currency or content of information accessed through the Internet. Users are urged to consult with library staff members who can recommend reliable sources of information and Internet search strategies.

Children's Computer Use

The library supports the principles of intellectual freedom and the right of each individual to have access to constitutionally protected material. The library also affirms the right and responsibility of parents, not library staff members, to determine and monitor their own children's use of library facilities and resources, including the Internet. Some sites may contain material that is offensive or inappropriate for minors as defined by law or as determined by their parents or guardians. Library personnel can assist parents and children to find age-appropriate resources. If parents or guardians are concerned about their child's responsible use of the Internet or the potential for exposure to offensive material, they should monitor or restrict that use.

Educational materials are available in all our libraries to promote Internet safety. All users, regardless of age, should exercise caution in sharing personal or private information online.

Statement on Filtering

In order to maximize federal and state funding that is vital to operating our library, the library complies with the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA). Filtering software is used to block access to sites with adult, sexually explicit content. Users 17 years of age and older may request the library staff to disable the filter provided that their subsequent Internet use complies with the conditions of CIPA and this Internet Use Policy. The library staff may also unblock a particular site (but not disable the filter), for users under the age of 17 if the site has been blocked in error. Wireless access is also filtered for adult, sexually explicit content. Library devices and non-library owned equipment cannot be unblocked. If users require unfiltered access to the Internet, they should use

library-owned equipment that does not access the Internet through the wireless network.

All users should note that filtering software is imperfect and inappropriate and/or offensive sites may not be blocked. Similarly, the software may block appropriate and/or legitimate sites. In addition, all computer software and equipment is subject to malfunction. While every effort will be made to accommodate legitimate requests to disable the filter or unblock a site, our ability to do so is determined by conditions outside our control.

Staff Assistance

1. Library personnel will take reasonable and known precautions to prevent loss of data, but the patron attests that all data has been appropriately saved and separately backed up to prevent a permanent loss of data; and if the patron experiences loss of data, the patron will hold the library and its personnel harmless for any data loss.
2. Library personnel may be able to offer suggestions and answer some questions. For more in-depth training, see our schedule of events for Computer Classes and Tech Nights.
3. Because some library personnel are more knowledgeable than others and their presence depends on particular schedules, more or less assistance may be available to patrons at any given time.

Disclaimer

While every effort has been made to ensure uninterrupted access to the Internet, no warranty is provided and the library or MCLINC is not responsible for any loss, financial or otherwise, associated with the use of this service. Software and information downloaded from any source may contain viruses or other malicious content. The library is not responsible for damage to users' back-up media or computers, or for any loss of data, damage or liability that may occur from use of the library's computers.

Termination or Prohibition of Computer User Access

Internet access is a privilege. Use of any library computer constitutes an agreement to abide by this policy. Inappropriate use, as determined by the library staff, may result in the loss of all computer access and/or prosecution under applicable state and federal laws.