



Internet Access Policy

The Lynnfield Public Library endeavors to develop collections, resources and services that meet the cultural, informational, recreational and educational needs of the community. In order to facilitate communication and in keeping with the mission of the Lynnfield Public Library, public access to the internet will be provided as part of the Library's information services, as well as various databases and computer apps, to all library users. Patrons are encouraged to ask for assistance from the Reference Librarian to navigate and determine the most trustworthy and best quality sources for their research. Library staff is able to provide basic internet instruction. Additional one-on-one instruction is available by appointment.

Internet access is provided in agreement with the American Library Association's "Library Bill of Rights", <http://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/librarybill>, as it applies to information in electronic format, and in accordance with the Massachusetts General Laws (Chapter 78, Section 33). The ALA "Library Bill of Rights" states "material should not be excluded because of the origin, background, or views of those contributing to their creation." The Library provides on-site and off-site access through public computers, free wireless network, Chromebook kits, and Internet hotspots.

The unique, unregulated nature of the internet requires that users exercise judgment regarding information accessible on various internet sites. The Library tries to protect users' privacy but complete privacy on shared computers is not a realistic expectation. The Library's wireless network is an open, unsecured public network. The Library does not filter access to internet sites but may monitor patron usage. Parents have the responsibility to monitor their children's use of library resources. Some patrons may deem some material unsuitable for viewing by their children. We suggest that parents concerned about access issues become familiar with this policy and join their children in using the Library's internet services. The Children's Room can provide parents with written materials to help them in guiding their children's internet use. Patrons should be sensitive about viewing or leaving material on the screens which may be upsetting to other patrons, whether on their own laptops or on Library PCs. To ensure a safe and secure environment, the Library has instituted the following rules:

1. Patrons are prohibited from accessing materials which may be prohibited by State or Federal Law.
2. Patrons may not use the Library's internet service for any illegal activity, including use of library computers for hacking and unauthorized copying of copyright-protected material in any format.
3. Patrons are prohibited from accessing visual or text-based materials which constitute potential sources of sexual harassment to other patrons or library staff.



4. Patrons violating the above rules may have their internet access terminated and/or may be required to leave the library.

Library staff are authorized to take prompt and appropriate actions to enforce this policy. The consequences of policy violation may include asking the patron to leave the Library and the grounds for a specified period of time and / or losing some or all of their library privileges. Actionable offenses will not be tolerated and will be reported to the appropriate authorities. This policy has been written in accordance with The Library Bill of Rights and the freedoms guaranteed by the First Amendment.

Adopted by the Board of Library Trustees June 3, 1997. Revised and adopted November 5, 2002. Revised and adopted September 3, 2013. Revised and adopted March 6, 2018. Revised and adopted July 23, 2024.