



The Branch District Library System makes Internet access available so that residents within its service area can use the educational, informational, and cultural resources of the World Wide Web. Access is a privilege, not a right, and requires users to be civil, courteous, and lawful.

Sign-In

Users must sign in before using a public Internet-access computer. Users will be allowed a limited amount of time each day to use the computers and must stop using the computer immediately upon completion of their session.

Internet Filtering

Internet access at the Branch District Library System is restricted through the use of filtering software. The Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) and the Michigan Library Privacy Act require that all Internet-accessible computers at the Library be restricted from viewing materials that are obscene or harmful to minors.

Internet content filters are not infallible. If patrons feel that a particular site is inappropriately blocked, they may request Library Staff to unblock said site. At that time Library Staff will, within reasonable time and workload limits, examine the site in question and make the determination if it should remain blocked or be unblocked, according to the standards set forth by CIPA and the Michigan Library Privacy Act.

Persons age 18 and older may request to have the filter disabled for their session, "to enable access to bona fide research or other lawful purposes." However, adults are still not allowed to display restricted materials within view of minors.

Privacy

When using a library computer, complete privacy cannot be guaranteed. Users are cautioned that the library's Internet-accessible computers are located in public areas, which must be shared by library users of all ages, backgrounds, and sensibilities. Users are asked to consider this and to respect the sensibilities of others when accessing potentially offensive information and images.

Due to the open nature of the Internet, all transactions, files, and communications are vulnerable to unauthorized access and use, and therefore, should be considered public. Users are advised not to disclose personal information, such as Social Security numbers, addresses, telephone numbers, etc., over the Internet. Temporary files and usage history lists on public computers are cleared regularly to help protect users' privacy.

The Branch District Library System makes every effort to protect your privacy. However, under the USA PATRIOT Act, federal authorities may obtain Library records. This federal law further prohibits Library Staff from informing you if federal agents have obtained records about you.

Downloads

Patrons may not download files to a Library computer's hard drive. Patrons may use their own floppy disks, or they may purchase floppy disks at the Circulation desk. The Branch District Library System assumes no responsibility for damages incurred to another computer due to viruses or other corrupted files contained on disks used with the library's computers.

Printing

Computer printing is available for a fee from Library computers. Printouts may be paid for and picked up at the Circulation desk. Patrons are responsible to pay for all pages sent to the printer. The Branch District Library System is not responsible for loss of data that may occur when printing. Copyright

U.S. Copyright law (Title 17, U.S.C.) prohibits the unauthorized reproduction or distribution of copyrighted materials, except as permitted by principles of fair use. Users may not copy or distribute electronic materials (including electronic mail, text, images, programs, or data) without the explicit permission of the copyright holder. Any responsibility for any consequences of copyright infringement lies with the users; the Branch District Library System expressly disclaims any liability or responsibility resulting from such use.

Wireless Network

The Branch District Library System provides wireless Internet access to our patrons on their laptops or other wireless-enabled mobile devices for web and email access. Internet filtering is in effect on the network and may not be disabled. Individuals age 18 and older may instead use a Library computer for unfiltered access, if a workstation is available. Printing is not available over the wireless network. Patrons may save files to a disk and print from a Library computer. Anti-virus and security protection are the responsibility of the patron. Patrons are further cautioned that wireless Internet access is inherently insecure, except when a web site supports encryption (such as banks, shopping, etc.). Library staff cannot provide technical support to patrons. Patrons may use only the library's wireless network while in the library.

Violations

Violations of this Acceptable Use Policy, or any activity prohibited under any applicable federal, Michigan, or local law may result in the loss of computer privileges. Any staff member who observes such a violation shall (1) note the violation, including the address of the objectionable site, if applicable; (2) direct the patron to leave the Internet site immediately or leave the computer workstation immediately; and (3) inform the patron of his or her right to appeal the denial of Internet access to the Library Director. Any patron dissatisfied with the decision of the Library Director may appeal to the Branch District Library Board.

Disclaimer

The Branch District Library System does not guarantee that its computer systems will meet the specific needs of any user, or be error-free and without interruption. The Library will not be liable for any direct or indirect, incidental, or consequential damages (including lost data or profits) sustained or incurred in connection with the use, operation, or inability to use the systems.