

Internet Policy Agreement

The Wells County Public Library serves our community as an information agency and independent learning center. It is within this context that we offer access to the Internet.

Internet Use is available to the following:

1. Adult library cardholders (ages 18 and older) who have read and signed this Internet Policy (witnessed by a staff member).
2. Young Adult cardholders (ages 12-18) who have signed parental permission (witnessed by a staff member).
3. Children (under age 12) under constant supervision of a parent or legal guardian who has Internet privileges.
4. Out-of-county patrons who have identification proving they are over the age of 18 and proof of address. A guest pass and PIN will be issued for that session.

Rules for Internet use:

1. All users must have their library card.

In order to insure patron privacy, it is the responsibility of the cardholder to have their card number and PIN in order to log on to the Internet computers. Proper identification must be provided to the reference staff to obtain this information.

2. Use is on a first come, first serve basis.

Patrons are usually limited to one half-hour unless no one else is waiting.

3. The Internet computers are filtered.

The library's Internet connection is filtered to screen or block particular sites generally considered inappropriate for patrons under the age of 18. Since filter software is not infallible and may not be capable of blocking everything that is inappropriate for public view, it is still the patron's responsibility to make appropriate choices when accessing sites. As with other library materials, it is up to the parents, not the library, to provide guidance and supervision when it comes to their children's use of the Internet. The library staff will authorize a filter override for adults, age 18 and older, wishing to access acceptable blocked sites.

5. Computers will be used for educational, informational, and recreational purposes only, not for unauthorized, illegal, or unethical purposes. Patrons may not send, receive or display text or graphics that may reasonably be construed as obscene, explicit, excessively violent, pornographic or inappropriate for family viewing.

6. Misuse of the library computer or Internet access will be determined by the library staff and will result in loss of Internet privileges.

6. Patrons' use of the public Internet stations should not be considered private. The computers are in public view and search history may be available to subsequent users and staff. Sites accessed during an authorized override of the filter are reported to the library.

7. The library itself does not provide electronic mail (e-mail) service.

Patrons may access e-mail through e-mail providers such as Yahoo, Hotmail, gmail, and other similar services.

8. Uploading and downloading of files.

Patrons may upload and download files to/from flash drives to the extent that the patron's knowledge and our secure system will allow. The library is not responsible for information lost in this process.

9. The patron is responsible for all pages printed.

Printing Internet pages is unreliable and unpredictable. The result may not be as the user expects. The library is not responsible for user mistakes. To minimize costs for the user and the library, users are encouraged to cut and paste Internet information into a word document for organizing before printing.

Regular resident and paid cardholders receive a 50¢ printing credit per day. Additional prints are 10¢ each (b/w) and 50¢ each (color). Guest and out-of-county users receive no free prints.

Wireless Access:

1. **The Wells County Public Library also provides wireless access to the Internet.**
2. **Patrons must provide their own computer with a wireless network card or check out one of the library's in-house laptops to connect to the public wireless Internet.** Technical support will not be available to patrons.
3. **Patrons of the wireless access are subject to the terms of this policy.**
4. **The library is not responsible for any information that is compromised, or for any damages caused to your hardware or software due to electrical surges, security issues, or consequences caused by viruses or hacking.** Patrons need to be aware that wireless networks are inherently insecure and it is strongly recommended that they secure their computers with up-to-date virus protection and firewall software.
5. **If providing your own laptop, a library card is not needed to use the wireless network.**
6. **Printing is available.** The same rules and fees apply as above. See B-10. If you do not have a library card, you must obtain a guest account from the reference desk to print.

Disclaimer:

The Internet is an electronic highway connecting thousands of computers all over the world and millions of individual subscribers. With international access comes the availability of materials that would not generally be acceptable in a public library. It is technically impossible to prevent access to all resources that might be objectionable to some people.

Information available through the Internet is not warranted by the Wells County Public Library to be accurate, authoritative, factual, or complete. The Wells County Public Library will not be responsible for any damages, losses, claims, obligations, or liabilities directly or indirectly relating to the use of the Internet. This includes loss of data, non-deliveries, misdeliveries, or service interruptions caused by negligence, error, or omission. Use of any information obtained via the Internet is at the user's own risk.

Library Staff Assistance:

The staff cannot provide in-depth training, but may be able to offer searching suggestions and answer questions when time allows.

INTERNET USE AGREEMENT

I understand and will abide by the above Internet Use Policy and any future changes that may be made to this policy. Should I commit any violation, my access privileges may be revoked, and/or appropriate legal action may be taken.

User's Printed Name: _____

User's Signature _____

(Signature indicates compliance with the above policy, whether or not the patron has read the policy.)

Age (if under 21 years of age) _____ Date _____

Parent's Signature (required for users under 18 years of age) _____

Signature(s) witnessed by: _____