

Internet & Wireless Network Policies

Vestal Public Library Internet Safety Policy

GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

1. As part of its mission, the Vestal Public Library (the Library) provides Internet access and personal computing resources to registered borrowers. Individuals who do not meet eligibility requirements for a Library card with borrowing privileges may qualify for Internet access via a guest pass if they present proper identification and meet such other requirements as may be established by the Library administration.
2. The Library also provides wireless access, enabling individuals to use their privately owned computer equipment to access the Internet. Visitors who wish to use the Library's wireless connectivity are not required to meet borrower eligibility criteria. Wireless access does require the acceptance of the Library's Wireless Network Policy.
3. The Library does not monitor and has no control over the information on the Internet. The Library assumes no responsibility for any loss or damages, direct or indirect, to a user's data, drives or disks, or for any personal damage or injury incurred as a result of using the Library's computing resources, including damage or injury sustained from invasions of the patron's privacy.
4. As with all Library resources, patrons are advised to exercise their own critical judgment and discrimination when evaluating sites found on the Internet. Certain information may be inaccurate, misleading or offensive to some individuals.
5. Unauthorized access, including so-called hacking, and any other unlawful activities by any Library users are strictly prohibited.
6. To comply with the Children's Internet Protection Act and restrict access to online content that may be considered harmful to minors or offensive to adults, the Library employs technology protection measures (filters) on all computers with Internet access. Users must be cautioned that filters are not foolproof and due to technological limitations cannot obstruct access to all potentially harmful or offensive content. In addition, filters may block access to some legitimate or constitutionally protected material found on the Internet. By law, individuals who have attained the age of 17 have the right to unfiltered Internet access.

CHILDREN, PARENTS AND THE INTERNET

1. Parents/guardians have the sole right and responsibility to decide what is appropriate for their child. The Library does not act in loco parentis (i.e., in the place or role of the parent). Parents/guardians are responsible for the supervision of their child's Internet activity. Children who use the Internet unsupervised may be exposed to inappropriate or disturbing information and images.

2. The Library has taken measures designed to assist in the safe and effective use of the Internet, including:
 - i. Employing technology protection measures (filters) on all computers offering Internet access.
 - ii. Developing and maintaining web sites designed for children and teens;
 - iii. Providing online and printed information about child safety and information on educational or recreational uses of the Internet.
3. To address the issue of the safety and security of minors (individuals who have not attained the age of 17) when using electronic mail, chat rooms and other forms of direct electronic communications, the Library recommends the following safety guidelines. Minors should:
 - i. Always ask their parents' permission before using their full name, address, telephone number, or school name anywhere on the Internet;
 - ii. Always tell their parents or another adult they trust if they see something online that is frightening or that they do not understand;
 - iii. Never respond to messages that make them feel uncomfortable or uneasy;
 - iv. Never give out a credit card number or password online without parental approval, and
 - v. Never arrange to meet in person someone they have met online unless they discuss it with their parents and an adult accompanies them.

USER RESPONSIBILITIES

All patrons must abide by the Library's Rules of Conduct and are expected to use Internet and/or personal computing resources in a responsible and orderly manner. Failure to comply with the policies and regulations that govern the use of the Library's Internet access and personal computing resources may result in immediate suspension of library privileges and, where necessary, civil liability and/or criminal prosecution. The following are prohibited:

1. Damaging computer resources, equipment, software, or data;
2. Violating system security;
3. Violating any legal agreement (e.g., software licenses);
4. Violating any federal, state or local law (e.g., copyright, child pornography);
5. Using the Internet to access sexually graphic materials;
6. Using personal software on Library equipment; and
7. Engaging in activities that may be judged as disruptive by Library staff or patrons.

User responsibilities are not limited to the above and may be subject to change.

By adopting this policy, the Vestal Public Library Board of Trustees authorizes the Administration to acquire appropriate hardware and software to provide Internet access and other approved computer-based services and to develop rules and regulations to implement this policy.

Adopted by the Library Board: April 19, 2016

Wireless Network Policy

The Vestal Public Library (the Library) provides free broadband wireless Internet access twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week to individuals with laptop or tablet computers, or smartphones. Users are expected to use the wireless network in a legal and responsible manner. Violation of federal, New York State or local laws, including but not limited to the transmission of pornography or harmful material, fraud, hacking, spamming, and illegal downloading of copyrighted material is prohibited.

Wireless access at the Library is not filtered. However, by choosing to use this free wireless service you agree to abide by the Library Internet Policy.

As the library is a public space, users are prohibited from using the network to access sexually graphic material as outlined in the Library Internet Policy. Sexually graphic material is subject to the interpretation of the Library staff. Violators will be asked to cease and persistence will result in denial of network access.

As with most public wireless networks, the connection is not secure. Any information being sent or received could be intercepted. Wireless users should not transmit their credit card numbers, passwords or other sensitive personal information while using the Library's wireless network.

Wireless users should have updated virus protection installed on their computer. The Library will not be responsible for any information that is compromised, or for any damage caused to an individual's hardware or software due to electric surges, security issues, viruses, hacking, spamming, or other causes. The Library assumes no responsibility for the safety of equipment or for computer or other wireless device configurations, security, or data files resulting from connection to the Library's wireless network.

Library staff cannot assist in making changes to user's network settings or perform any troubleshooting on the user's own computer. Please refer to your owner's manual or technical support provided by the manufacturer. Since computer equipment is subject to repair and "downtime" the Library does not guarantee that the network will always be available. The Library also reserves the right to curtail or discontinue wireless service at any time.

The wireless network is widely available throughout the main floor and on the exterior grounds of the library; however you may encounter some "dead" spots where reception may be compromised. If you have trouble accessing the network or staying online please try moving to another location. The Library has a limited number of publicly accessible electrical outlets (some with surge protectors) available for use. Please see staff at the Information Desk for assistance in locating them. The Library printers are not available via the wireless network