

Fairbury Public Library Internet and Computer Use Policy

Fairbury Public Library strives to fulfill the informational needs of the community of Fairbury and the surrounding areas. Access to the Internet is one of the public services provided by the Library, as a part of the Library's mission of providing information resources through current technology.

Fairbury Public Library does not monitor and has no control over the information accessed through the Internet and cannot be held responsible for its content. The Internet is a global entity with a highly diverse user population and library patrons use it at their own risk. All computer users should be aware that not all sources on the Internet provide accurate, complete, or current information. The library takes no responsibility for the accuracy or quality of information obtained. The library urges patrons to be well informed consumers, and carefully evaluate any information obtained via the Internet.

Internet users should recognize that the library computers are in a public setting and that viewing of certain materials in the public library may be considered improper or inappropriate. All computer users must respect the rights of other library patrons. This includes not exposing other library users to any materials or images which the majority of the community would consider offensive. The Library reserves the right to end an Internet session at any time if what is being viewed is disturbing to other patrons. The offending patron may also be asked to leave the library for the day, or longer, depending upon the circumstances. Please refer to the Suspension of Library Services Policy for more detailed information.

Material is available on the Internet that parents may feel is inappropriate for their children. Parents of minor children must assume responsibility for their children's activity in the library, including computer and Internet use. It is assumed that any persons under the age of 17 using public access computers in the library have parental permission to access the Internet. **Library staff will not supervise Internet sessions of any patron, regardless of age.**

In compliance with the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA), Fairbury Public Library has installed filtering software on all public access internet library computers. Library staff will enforce the operation of the filters during public use to prevent minors from accessing visual depictions that are obscene, pornographic, or otherwise harmful to minors. The term "harmful to minors" is defined by the Communications Act of 1934 (47 USC Section 254 h7) as meaning any picture, image, or graphic image file, or other visual depiction that:

- 1) Taken as a whole and with respect to minors, appeals to a prurient interest in nudity, sex, or excretion;
- 2) Depicts, describes, or represents, in a patently offensive way with respect to what is suitable for minors, an actual or simulated sexual contact, actual or simulated normal or perverted sexual acts, or a lewd exhibition of the genitals;
- 3) Taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value as to minors.

Filtering software, however, is not completely foolproof, and the software does not eliminate the possibility that users will inadvertently retrieve text or images that they may find offensive. It does diminish the likelihood of coming across such content. Filters often block access to sites that users would consider inoffensive, safe, and useful. Therefore, filtering software may be disabled by a library staff member, as necessary, for users aged 17 and older.

Patrons must exercise caution when using the Internet to avoid unauthorized disclosure, use, and dissemination of personal identification information. Parents should also caution their minor children against sharing personal facts on the Internet.

Library staff cannot provide in-depth software instruction or one-on-one training concerning computer or Internet use. Library staff is able to offer searching suggestions and answer general questions, Library staff can also assist patrons in setting up e-mail accounts.

Users of the Fairbury Public Library's computers are required to abide by the provisions of this policy including the Rules Governing Public use of the computers listed below.

Rules Governing Use of Public Computers:

1. Computer users must sign up to use the library computers in person on the sheet at the circulation desk and are available on a first come, first served, basis. Computers may not be reserved except for use by the GED program or other governmental agency programs or by students for the taking of on-line exams. Such use must be scheduled ahead of time with library staff. Staff will assist patrons with locating the public access computers. Staff computers are not available for public access at any time.
2. A limited number of computers are available for public use. Time limits for computer use will vary depending on demand. As long as there are computers available for everyone, patrons will not be asked to leave after any given time. If others are waiting, patrons will be limited to one hour and will be expected to get off when informed by staff that their time is up. Everyone is expected to finish and leave the computers 10 minutes prior to library closing time.
3. Computer users age 16 and older are asked to use the computers on the adult side of the library. If none are available on the adult side, they will be allowed to use the computers on the children's side.
4. The computers are limited to one user at a time, except for parental supervision of children's use and where one person is assisting another with filling out on-line forms. In keeping with the Unattended Children Policy, children under the age of 6 must be supervised at the computer by someone aged 13 or older.
5. Users may not download personal software onto the computers. However, documents and photos may be temporarily downloaded to the computer if necessary so they may be emailed or saved on a portable storage device such as a flash drive. Computers will be re-booted and anything saved will be deleted after every computer use session.
6. The library charges .20 cents per page for black and white computer printing to cover the cost of paper and ink cartridges. Payment for printing is required upon completion of the user's computer session. All printing must be paid for whether intentional or not. Color printing is available for \$1.00 per page.

7. Computer users will respect the privacy of other users and will refrain from any attempts to read material being used by others.
8. Computer users must abide by all library behavior policies as well as all city, state and federal laws. Library staff may end a user's computer session at any time if there is any type of disturbance, behavior policy violation, or disruption to other library patrons or staff. Computer users must respect the rights of all others in the library and this includes keeping voices and/or noise levels of any type to a minimum.
9. The library computers and internet access may be used only for lawful purposes. Transmission of any material in violation of any U.S. or state law is strictly prohibited. This includes but is not limited to copyrighted material and threatening or obscene material. Internet users agree to indemnify and hold harmless the Fairbury Public Library from any claims resulting from their use of the service, which damaged the user or another party.
10. The library is not responsible for lost data and does not guarantee any supplied program. Users will be held financially responsible for any damage or alteration to equipment or software. Misuse of any equipment or failure to follow any of these guidelines and Rules Governing Use of Public Computers, including failure to abide by time limits, or causing any disruption in the library, will result in loss of computer privileges. Library staff is authorized to take prompt and appropriate actions to enforce the Rules Governing Use of Public Computers. The Library Director reserves the right to permanently terminate the computer use privileges of any individual who fails to abide by the Rules Governing use of Public Computers.