



Computer & Internet Use Policy

The Bell Memorial Library provides public access to the Internet as one resource to fulfill the Library's mission. The Internet expands the scope of information. It is, however, an unregulated medium that changes constantly/unpredictably. The Library is not responsible for the quality/accuracy of information. Patrons are responsible for evaluating information. Parents of children under 18 are required to sign a parental permission form allowing Internet access for their child.

Patrons who have a valid Library /OWWL card that is clean of fines and overdue items may sign in at the desk to use a computer. This applies to someone signing in for a minor. Patrons who are outside the Pioneer library System may have access to a computer. They must sign in at the desk. The same rule applies to minors.

Free computer use is available in thirty (30) minute sessions on a first come/first serve basis. If no one is waiting at the end of the session, additional time may be requested.

Only two (2) patrons, registered for the computer, are allowed at a computer at a time. Patrons ten (10) years and older may use the computer alone. Patrons under the age of ten (10), must have a parent/guardian present to supervise at all times. The OPAC in the Children's Room may be used without parent/guardian supervision. It is the right/responsibility of a parent/guardian to supervise a minor's use of the Internet. To the extent possible, library staff will monitor the use of the online activities of minors in accordance with library policy and the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA).

Use of computer resources for activities that violate local, state, federal law is prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to activities such as viewing child pornography, committing fraud, hacking, unauthorized access, or spreading libel or slander.

Patrons may print computer information for \$.15 a page for black/white and \$.20 a page for color.

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Patrons may not make any changes in any program setup or hard drive configuration. Patrons may save files to a computer, but assume responsibility for content/privacy of said files. Any files saved to a computer will be lost once the computer is shut down at the end of the patron's session.

Any damage to a computer or its peripheral devices is the responsibility of the patron. Abuse of the equipment will result in the patron being denied further access to the service. Malicious damage may result in prosecution.

Computer access hours will be from opening until five (5) minutes before closing. Reservations may be made. Computers will be turned on/off by library staff ONLY.

Free wireless Internet access for use with laptop/other wireless devices is available. While the Library's content filtering software applies to wireless usage, public wireless network is accessible for all users without restriction. Virus and security protection is the user's responsibility.

The Library assumes no responsibility for any alterations/interference with a device's configuration, operation, or data files resulting from connection to the wireless network. Due to insurance limitations/warranties, library staff cannot configure user's devices. Virus/security protection is the user's responsibility. The Library assumes no responsibility for damage, theft, or loss of any kind to user's equipment, software, data files, other personal property brought into/used at the Library.

The Library cannot guarantee that the wireless service will be available at any specific time. The connection shall not be used for illegal/time-consuming commercial purposes or for purposes that infringe on patrons' access to equal bandwidth.

Users shall defend, indemnify, and hold Bell Memorial Library, officers, employees, agents harmless against all claims, actions, judgements based upon/arising out of user's use of Library wireless connections.

This policy may be revised by the Board of Trustees at any time.

Adopted: 4/21/1999

Revised: 6/21/2002

Revised: 10/22/2020