

# Computers

## Computer and Internet Use Policy

Approved by Board of Trustees January 20, 2011. Updated and approved by the Board February 17, 2022.

In accordance with our Library mission statement and in response to the advances in technology and changing communication needs of the community, the Woodstock Library offers the internet as an electronic source that provides information far beyond the margins of our collections. It allows access to ideas, information and commentary from around the world. The library offers access to the internet through on-site computer terminals and through free wi-fi in and outside the library building.

Our tradition is to develop collections, resources and services that meet the cultural, informational, recreational and educational needs of Woodstock's diverse, multicultural community. It should be understood that the internet is an unregulated medium. Although it offers access to a great wealth of material that is enriching to individuals of all ages, it also enables access to material that may be offensive, disturbing or illegal. Since the Library Board and Library Staff have no control over, nor do we monitor, the information accessed through the internet, it is the responsibility of individual users to determine the suitability of internet material.

Parents/guardians are responsible for the internet information selected and/or accessed by their children. Only parents/guardians may restrict their children from use of the internet resource at the Library. As with all other library materials, restriction of a child's access to the internet is the responsibility of the child's parent/guardian. This responsibility does not fall to the Library Staff. Parents are advised to supervise their children's internet sessions. Staff assistance is available for advice, but instruction to internet beginners is only available on a limited, scheduled basis. For the protection of Library equipment, children under twelve must be supervised by a parent/guardian.

Library Staff may impose restrictions, such as time limits, on the use of the equipment. While respecting individual users' rights to privacy, staff reserves the right to monitor use of the Library-owned computers to ensure compliance with this policy. Staff may ask users to remove themselves from equipment if they observe any behavior that they judge to be in conflict with this policy. Misuse or abuse of Library computers or internet access may result in the suspension of Library privileges.

Users should be advised that although the Library supports the users' right to privacy, security is technically difficult to achieve and that electronic communications and files are safest when they are treated as if they were public.

Use of the internet for activities that violate local, state or federal laws is prohibited. This includes but is not limited to such activities as viewing child pornography, committing fraud, hacking, illegal downloading, or spreading libel or slander. Any individual found to be violating this policy may be prohibited from using Library computers.

It is the responsibility of all users of electronic resources at the Woodstock Library to respect intellectual property rights. Copyright restrictions may exist for individual electronic resources. Users may only make copies allowable by copyright laws or licensed software requirements.

Users may not copy programs or data onto the hard disks of the Library's computers, copy programs from the Library's computers, or change settings. Users are also prohibited from using their own programs on the Library's computers. Tampering with or disabling the Library's computer hardware or software, or introducing computer viruses is prohibited.

Users are reminded that they are in a public place that is shared by Library users and staff of all ages, backgrounds and sensibilities. Users are expected to consider this diversity and respect the sensibilities of others when accessing potentially offensive information or images.

In making this policy, the Woodstock Public Library District Board of Trustees states agreement with:

[Access to Digital Resources and Services: An Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights](#) Adopted January 24, 1996 by the ALA Council; amended January 19, 2005; July 15, 2009 under previous name "Access to Digital Information, Services, and Networks"; and June 25, 2019.

[Internet Filtering: An Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights](#) Adopted June 30, 2015, by the ALA Council.

[Affirmation of Internet Services at the Library](#) adopted by NYLA Council, September 10, 1997.