Pickerington Public Library
Internet Access and Computer Use Policy

Internet Access

The Pickerington Public Library (PPL) provides Internet connectivity for the purpose of information retrieval. The Library maintains the network in order to provide immediate access to information for educational, professional, and personal development purposes and provides free access to all individuals/groups in the community.

The Internet, as an information resource, enables the library to provide information beyond the confines of its own collection. While it offers access to a wealth of material that is personally, professionally and culturally enriching, it also enables access to some material that may be offensive, disturbing, illegal, inaccurate and/or incomplete.

The PPL does not assume liability for the reliability of the local network, the Internet, or for the accuracy and/or quality of content found therein. Patrons are responsible for scrutinizing information on the Internet for reliability. Users should also recognize that the library is not responsible for changes to the content of websites, nor for the content of sources accessed through subsequent links.

Internet Access by Minors

Library computers have been equipped with filtering software, or have specific, limited programs available. The library recognizes that filtering software is far from perfect; it may allow some inappropriate content to pass through and can block appropriate sites from view.

The parent or legal guardian of minor children assumes responsibility for supervising access to Internet resources in the library. The parent or legal guardian is responsible for setting standards, establishing guidelines, and overseeing the use of these electronic resources.

Misuse of Library Computers

Misuse of any library computer may result in a warning, immediate suspension of computer privileges, or loss of library privileges. Such misuse includes, but is not limited to; using the computer for unauthorized, illegal or unethical activities; hacking into the library computer system or any other computer system; damaging or attempting to damage computer equipment or software; interfering with systems operations, integrity or security; gaining unauthorized access to another person's files; creating or sending harassing or malicious messages to other computer users or staff; altering or attempting to alter the library computer's settings; online gambling; misrepresenting oneself as another person; and violating copyright laws and software licensing agreements.

A patron may not send, receive or display text, graphics or audio, which may reasonably be construed as obscene as defined in sections 2907.01 and 2907.31 of the Ohio Revised Code. Accessing such materials would be considered misuse.

Issues not covered here fall under general library policies and operations.

Procedures for Library Computer Use

Patrons must have a PPL account in good standing in order to utilize the computers in the computer lab.

Juveniles age 9-17 with a PPL account in good standing may use library computers in the adult area. The parent or legal guardian of a juvenile age 9-17 may sign a statement disallowing Internet access on library computers.

Juveniles up to the age of 10 may use library computers in the juvenile area and must be accompanied by a responsible care-giver (16 or older).

Ohio residents must have a PPL account in good standing in order to access computers in the computer lab. Non-residents may receive a guest pass at the reference desk. A person residing outside of Ohio is considered a non-resident.

The Pickerington Public Library reserves the right to regulate the use of workstations. Computers are normally available, subject to maintenance, during library hours.

Library staff are available to help a patron get started and to assist with minor problems. Staff cannot provide in-depth training or solve compatibility problems.

Patrons may not use personally owned software programs on library computers or other equipment. Patrons may use their own portable storage devices. Patrons may not save data to the hard drive of library computers.

Duplication of the library's software is not permitted as it would constitute violation of the copyright law.

Patrons should close any open accounts before ending a session. Even though the system does clear all information upon ending the session, the PPL will assume no responsibility for any account that remains open and is accessed by another patron.

Patrons may print files for a nominal fee.

Library lab computers are scheduled to shut down automatically several minutes before the stated closing time.

Laptops

The library provides a limited number of laptops for patron use. Patrons must present a PPL card in good standing for check out. The laptop may be used only within the library building. Patrons must relinquish a government-issued ID (such as a driver's license) or some form of accepted collateral to be held until the laptop is returned.

Laptops are available at the adult reference desk. All library computer use guidelines apply. The loan period ends 15 minutes prior to closing.