

Bonner Springs City Library Computer and Internet Use Policies

The following are rules governing the use of computers at Bonner Springs City Library:

1. Users of library computers must be cardholders of Bonner Springs City Library and must agree to follow the Computer and Internet Use Policies of the Library by accepting the user agreement when they begin their session. A person who is unable to get a Bonner Springs City Library card or is visiting Bonner Springs briefly may be logged on to the computer as a guest, but all repeat users are encouraged to obtain a library card.
2. Use of all library computers is on a first-come, first-serve basis. Session reservation software limits daily use to three hours, but if others are waiting use will be limited to one hour. If no others are waiting, library staff will extend sessions upon request. Users engaged in school work, test taking, and job finding may be given priority.
3. Because it receives federal funding, this library complies with the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA), the Neighborhood Children's Internet Protection Act (NCIPA), and the Kansas Children's Internet Protection Act (KS-CIPA). These laws were adopted by Congress to protect children and others as they use the Internet from a computer located in a public library or public school. This means federal law requires the library to install a filter, or blocking software on the library's Internet terminals which blocks access to sites with matter deemed inappropriate for minors or persons under the age of 18 as stipulated under Kansas law as "...a child under the age of 18 years" and in CIPA and NCIPA "...an individual who has not attained the age of 17." In compliance with state law, the library will apply this limitation to users under the age of 18. Using the definition provided by CIPA and NCIPA, the phrase "matter...inappropriate for minors..." used in the federal law is regarded as synonymous with the definition of obscenity in K.S.A. 21-4301; 21-4301a, and 21-4301c.

This technology is not always reliable. It may block access to constitutionally protected material on the Internet and may be incapable of completely protecting against access to Internet material that is obscene or harmful to minors, including child pornography. The library cannot be held responsible for prohibited information that may be displayed or for useful information that may be blocked.

Adult users (18 and older) may request that the filter on the computer they are using be turned off. A staff member will promptly turn off the Internet filter without inquiring into the patron's purpose in accordance with the statute as interpreted by the Supreme Court.

The Internet is a global entity with a highly diverse user population and library patrons use it at their own risk. Public access stations are not private, so users are expected to use good judgment in accessing sites that may be offensive to others. Users must comply with the United States copyright law, United States and Kansas obscenity laws, and all other applicable laws.

4. Computing resources may only be used for legal purposes and must be consistent with the Rules of Conduct of the Bonner Springs City Library. Computer and Internet use policies apply to all computer use in the library, including use of personal devices. Examples of unacceptable activities include, but are not limited to, the following:

- A. Accessing or exhibiting obscene material on library computer workstations. Disseminating or exhibiting obscene material is a crime in the state of Kansas. See K.S.A. 21-4301 as amended.
- B. Accessing material or computer-generated images deemed harmful to minors. See K.S.A. 21-4301a and K.S.A. 21-4301c, as amended.
- C. Using the library computer workstations in a manner that allows them to possess a computer-generated image that contains or incorporates sexual exploitation of a child. See K.S.A. 21-3516, as amended.
- D. Violation of any applicable international, federal, state or local laws, ordinances, rules or regulations.
- E. Harassment, slandering, or libeling other users.
- F. Destruction of or damage to equipment, software, or data belonging to Bonner Springs City Library or other users.
- G. Unauthorized copying of copyright-protected material in accordance with federal laws on copyright (U.S. Code, Title 17).
- H. Violation of computer system security.
- I. Installing or attempting to install software or files on library computers.
- J. Authorization of any monetary charges to the library for services or materials accessed through computers.
- K. Violation of another user's privacy.

5. MISUSE OF THE COMPUTER WILL RESULT IN LOSS OF COMPUTER PRIVILEGES

First offense: Verbal warning and account of incident will be placed on patron's record

Second offense (within a year of the first offense): patrons will lose all Internet privileges for one year

6. All patrons are prohibited from sending electronic mail, instant messages, or chat room messages that violate any local, state or federal laws. Violators of this prohibition may lose computer privileges

7. Misuse of computer equipment and Internet access may result in loss of computer privileges. Misuse includes, but is not limited to the following: Activities causing damage to library computer equipment, software programs, and data; activities deemed unlawful according to local, state, and federal law; and hacking or other unauthorized access to secure data. Violations will be immediately reported to appropriate law enforcement officials.

8. Violation of individual privacy rights, including unauthorized disclosure, use and dissemination of personal information regarding minors is prohibited. Persons violating this prohibition may lose computer privileges. Library staff will not disclose library patrons' use of the library with respect to information sought or received, including Internet use, except pursuant to a valid court order or subpoena authorized under federal, state, or local law.

9. Library staff will offer computer assistance as time allows, but in-depth assistance and computer training are available only by appointment.

10. The library's Internet connection may be periodically and temporarily inoperable due to technical difficulties.

11. Printing costs are 10 cents per page for black and white copies and 50 cents per page for color copies.

13. Users are encouraged to save their work frequently. Flash drives (\$5.00) may be purchased at the circulation desk for saving or downloading material.

Warning: Although the library has a firewall in place, it does not offer complete protection from viruses. Software downloaded from the Internet may contain viruses and patrons are encouraged to use antivirus software on their personal devices. The Bonner Springs City Library is not responsible for damage to a patron's computer or storage device or for any loss of data, damage, or liability that may occur from use of library computers or personal devices in the library. Staff assistance with computer hardware and software does not imply assumption of liability on the part of the library.

Last revised June 10, 2021