

Computer Use and Internet Policy

The intent of this policy is to meet the provisions of Idaho Code § 33-2741, as well as to provide guidelines for patrons and staff regarding internet access and online computer use. The Computer Use and Internet Policy was discussed and adopted during an open meeting of the Library Board on February 13, 2024, and is effective as of February 14, 2024. Jerome Library Board shall review this policy at least every three years.

The Jerome Public Library has filtering software on any publicly accessible computer with internet access that protects against access to visual depictions that are obscene, child pornography, or harmful to minors, as defined in Idaho Code § 33-2741 and the Children's Internet Protection Act and is enforced to provide internet safety during any use of a computer. An authorized library representative, with the permission of the Library Director, may disable the filtering software at the request of a patron to enable internet access for lawful purposes.

Users shall be subject to the following conditions of use of the computer facilities offered by the Jerome Public Library:

- Users with library privileges must have their own library card to access the computer.
- Users without a library account shall obtain access to a designated "guest" station by requesting access from library staff at the front desk. Each will be limited to a 1 hour per day session. Wireless users are not subject to the time limitation.
- Library account must be in good standing and/or have an account not in excess of \$10.00.
- A parent or legal guardian must accompany minors under the age of 13 who do not have a library card or internet privileges.
- Minors under the age of 13 only: There will be no more than one user at a computer at a time.
- Minors under the age of 13 with library cards may use computers with internet access with signed parent permission.
- Library computer use will not be granted to a minor without consent from a parent or legal guardian. The library does not serve *in loco parentis* (in place of a parent). Library staff do not supervise children as they explore the internet. The responsibility for what minors read, view and share on the internet rests with the parents or legal guardians who grant permission for its use.
- Daily use for minors with computer privileges is limited to a one-hour session while school is in session. On non-school days, minors are allowed two (2) one-hour sessions as computer reservations allow.
- Users will use computer stations in designated area for their age group as marked on computer screens.

- Staff and availability of workstations in the atrium will determine time limits for adults 18 and older.
- Users shall not access internet sites or view media depicting images of nude human genitalia, buttocks, or female breasts or which are pornographic, or sexually explicit.
- Users shall not create files on the computer, other than temporary internet files, or attempt to access or modify existing files.
- Users can download materials that are available for purchase through allowed sites with icons on the computer desktop.
- Users shall not install any programs, nor copy any programs.
- All use shall comply with State and Federal laws and regulations.
- Other prohibited behaviors include, but may not be limited to:
 - Circumventing or attempting to circumvent library time management software on library computers
 - Changing the setting and configurations of library computers, included disconnecting power or Ethernet cables
 - Using Library computers for unauthorized access, including so-called “hacking or other unlawful activities
 - Unauthorized disclosure, use and dissemination of personal identification information regarding minors

Indemnification

The availability of information does not constitute endorsement of the content by the library. Patrons who choose to use the internet as an information resource do so at their own risk.

The Library does not monitor, and has no control over the information access through the internet and is not responsible for its content. The library has no means or statutory authority to assure that only constitutionally protected material is available on the internet.

All library computers are filtered. Although content filtering mechanisms are in place, no know filtering solution is 100% effect. Words, images or sounds that could be considered inappropriate or offensive by a library patron may not be blocked. The same filter could block other constitutionally protected information that a patron may wish to access.

The library shall not be liable for any direct or indirect loss or damages caused by patron use of library computers or wireless internet.

Response to violation

Violation of this policy may result in immediate suspension of the User’s computer privileges, and, if appropriate, library privileges potential loss of library privileges and possible prosecution.

Individuals whose behavior violated library policy will be warned about the specific behavior. If the violation continues after a warning, or if other inappropriate behavior is demonstrated, they

may be asked to leave the library. An incident report will be prepared and filed with the library director. The concern about illegal conduct or content may be referred to the appropriate department of law enforcement.

Adopted by Jerome Public Library Board of Trustees December 8, 2009.

Revised and approved in a public meeting January 11, 2011, September 10, 2013, January 9, 2018, February 13, 2018, February 9, 2021 and February 13, 2024.