



Public Internet Use Policy

Adopted by the Library Board of Trustees
September 9, 2021

To fulfill its mission of providing public access to information of all types in a wide range of formats, the South Brunswick Public Library (SBPL) provides access to Internet resources.

The SBPL endorses the ALA Library Bill of Rights, the American Library Association's Freedom to Read statement and the NJ Library Association's People's Library Bill of Rights. Users have the right of confidentiality in all their activities with resources and services provided by the SBPL. The Library supports the user's right to privacy; however, users are advised that, because security is technically difficult to achieve, electronic communications and files can become public.

The SBPL does not endorse the viewpoints or vouch for the accuracy or authenticity of information accessed via the Internet. The Internet offers access to many valuable local, national and international sources of information. However, some information found on the Internet may be inaccurate, incomplete, dated, or offensive to some individuals. A good information consumer must evaluate the validity and appropriateness of information found.

Choosing and Evaluating Sources

The Internet is a series of communication link and sites offering a highly diverse array of information content. Library patrons use it at their own risk. In choosing sources to link to from its home pages, the Library follows its materials selection guidelines. Beyond this, the Library is not responsible for the content of the Internet, changes in content of the sources to which the Library website links to, or for the content of sources accessed through secondary links or search engines. In an effort to assist its users, the Library has created sections of its website with recommended links curated for the general population, for teens and for children to help guide them to sources that are accurate, complete and current and that provide them with a wealth of information on the local, national and global level. In addition, the Library provides training for members of the public to assist them in using the Internet in a safe, effective and efficient manner. Finally, as set forth in greater detail below, in accordance with the Children's Internet Protection Act, the Library has implemented "technology protection measures" (i.e., software filtering) on all of its Internet-accessible computers.

Filtering

As required by the Children's Internet Protection Act ("CIPA"), in order to remain eligible for certain federal funding, the Library has implemented software filtering on all of its Internet-

accessible computer terminals. The filtering technology used on Internet-accessible computers at the Library protects against access to visual depictions of obscenity, child pornography, and, in the case of persons under the age of 17 years, materials that are "harmful to minors." Users should be aware, however, that all currently available filtering technology results in a degree of both "underblocking" (i.e., permitting access to certain material that falls within the foregoing categories) and "overblocking" (i.e., denying access to certain constitutionally protected material that does not fall within the foregoing categories). The Library has attempted to select filtering software that best complies with CIPA while providing Library users with the broadest possible access to constitutionally protected speech and information and at a reasonable expense to the Library. The Library cannot and does not guarantee that the filtering will block all obscenity, child pornography, or materials that are harmful to minors. Nor can the Library guarantee that the filtering will not restrict access to sites that may have legitimate research or other value. Any user who is 17 years of age or older may request access to a computer with filtering disabled in order to obtain unfiltered Internet access for bona fide research or other lawful purpose at the Information Desk or by following such instructions as the Library shall otherwise provide from time to time.

Access by Minors

Parents or legal guardians must assume responsibility for deciding which library resources are appropriate for their own children. Parents or legal guardians should guide their children in use of the Internet and inform them about materials they should not use. While the Library affirms and acknowledges the rights and responsibilities of parents and guardians to monitor and determine their children's access to Library materials and resources, including those available through the Internet, the Library has taken certain measures designed to assist in the safe and effective use of these resources by all minors.

- A. To address the issue of access by minors to inappropriate material on the Internet, including material that is harmful to minors, the Library:
 - 1. Develops and maintains recommended web links for children and teens;
 - 2. Develops and provides occasional training programs and resources on safe and effective Internet use;
 - 3. Encourages staff to guide minors away from materials that may be inappropriate;
 - 4. Has implemented filtering technology as more fully described above.

- B. To address the issue of the safety and security of minors when using electronic mail, chat rooms and other forms of direct electronic communications, as well as the unauthorized disclosure, use and dissemination of personal identification information regarding minors, the Library provides occasional training programs and resources and also urges minors to keep in mind the following safety guidelines:

1. Never give out identifying information such as home address, school name, or telephone number.
 2. Let parents or guardians decide whether personal information such as age, marital status, or financial information should be revealed.
 3. Never arrange a face-to-face meeting with someone via the computer without parents' or guardians' approval.
 4. Never respond to messages that are suggestive, obscene, threatening, or make one uncomfortable.
 5. Have parents or guardians report an incident to the local police and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children at 1-800-843-5678 if one becomes aware of the transmission of child pornography.
 6. Remember that people online may not be who they say they are.
 7. Remember that everything one reads may not be true.
- C. To address the issue of unauthorized access, including so-called "hacking," and other unlawful activities by minors online, minors and all other Library users are hereby advised that use of the Library's computers for hacking or any other unlawful activity is strictly prohibited.

The SBPL reserves the right to terminate an Internet session at any time.