

Internet Use Policy

Roanoke County Public Library has no effective means for substantive control over the information accessed through the internet and is not responsible for its content.

In keeping with the Code of Virginia, 18.2-374.1:1, content screening software has been installed on the library's internet connectivity. Along with this filtering software, public computers reserved for juvenile users have limited internet access to materials which may be harmful to children. Parents and legal guardians of children under the age of 18 are responsible for monitoring their children's use of the internet and for deciding what internet resources are appropriate for their children.

By using the public Internet at Roanoke County Public Libraries, you agree to the following: The library is a public place and there are some internet resources which may be inappropriate to a library setting. Both patrons and staff are prohibited from using library equipment or connectivity for illegal purposes. Sending, receiving, viewing, downloading, or displaying illegal materials and graphics which may reasonably be construed as obscene is prohibited. The access and display of obscene graphics and child pornography is illegal (Code of Virginia, 18.2-372, 18.2-374.1). The library is a public place and other library users may inadvertently be exposed to graphics displayed as a result of search(es). Users also have an obligation to exercise control and restraint in regard to displaying materials which may be harmful to minors (Code of Virginia, 18.2-391.1), keeping in mind that children are frequent users of our libraries.

Installing personal software on library-owned computers and/or making changes to the setup or configuration of library-owned software or hardware including the adjustment or alteration of computer operating systems is prohibited.

Roanoke County Public Library does not provide:

- The ability to download material from the internet to any of the library computer hard drives. However, patrons may save information to a personal device or print out material for a fee.
- Technical support for, or assistance with, chat capabilities.
- Unfiltered access on public workstations.
- Email services, however, patrons may access email through a web browser. Roanoke County Public Library is not responsible for inaccessible e-mail.

Staff Assistance:

Library staff is committed to equitably administering the policies, guidelines, and procedures which govern Internet access for the public. Staff routinely monitor use of all library facilities and equipment, and is prepared to offer assistance and guidance when appropriate. If asked, staff will assist patrons in accessing the internet. Library patrons who observe possible violations of the *Internet Use Policy* and guidelines are encouraged to report their concerns to the staff on duty.

Library Users' Responsibility:

By accessing the internet at Roanoke County Public Library, users agree to abide by the terms of this policy and its guidelines. Failure to follow library internet policies, guidelines, or procedures can result in a loss of the user's access privileges. Illegal or disruptive behaviors can result in immediate termination of access and may necessarily involve intervention by law enforcement authorities. The library reserves the right to terminate any internet search session, and users who fail to follow the guidelines may indefinitely lose their access privileges, particularly in the case of repeat offenders. Users may appeal any termination of access privileges to the Library Director.

This policy was reviewed and adopted by Library Administration, October 19, 1996; modified and revised in September 1998; June 1999; October 2003; July 2005; September 2007; and June 2022.

