

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 clicking “Yes” when they begin their session. A person who is unable to get a Bonner Springs City Library card or someone who is just passing through town 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, child pornography or harmful to minors. 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 library encourages adult patrons to request that the filter be disabled for their use.

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. Patrons shall not access or exhibit 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. Patrons shall not access material or computer-generated images deemed harmful to minors. See K.S.A. 21-4301a and K.S.A. 21-4301c, as amended.
- C. Patrons shall not use 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 are subject to the consequences described above. Because of limited staff and technical

resources, chat, e-mail, and commercial transactions are not a service priority. Library staff will not provide assistance with those activities.

7. Patrons are responsible for any careless and/or abusive treatment of computer hardware and software. Misuse of computer equipment and Internet access may result in the consequences described above. 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 unauthorized access to secure data, including so-called "hacking." 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 are subject to the consequences described in section five above. 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 may be able to offer searching suggestions and answer questions, but we cannot provide in-depth training and support.

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.

12. Users are not allowed to bring software from home for use in library computers.

13. Users will need to ask a staff member if you wish to save files. Computer disks (\$1.00) and flash drives (\$5.00) may be purchased at the circulation desk to be used for saving or downloading material.

Warning: Although we use a virus-checker on the Internet Access computers, this will not completely protect you from the chance of getting a virus. Software downloaded from the Internet may contain a virus and you need to have virus-checking software on your computer. The Bonner Springs City Library is not responsible for damage to a patron's disk or computer, or for any loss of data, damage, or liability that may occur from patron use of the library's computers, nor will the library be held responsible for any damage to personal devices when library staff assist a patron at the patron's request.

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