

Spartanburg County Public Libraries- Internet Access Policy

The Spartanburg County Public Libraries (SCPL) provides public and staff access to the Internet, both wired and wireless, to facilitate library software required for staff workflows and to enable access to library materials, general research, and personal computing, as well as for the purposes of obtaining materials outside of the libraries' collection. SCPL has established this policy to ensure responsible and appropriate use of the Internet within all library facilities, accessed from a public computer lab or personal device.

Rights and Responsibilities of Users

SCPL cannot be held liable for the content of any Internet site. Individual users must exercise judgment in evaluating the validity and appropriateness of information retrieval via the Internet and must assume personal responsibility for its use. SCPL employs filtering software for Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) compliance and to exercise our responsibility of selecting information sources consistent with our mission.

Some Internet sites may be inappropriate for viewing in a public setting, and users should exercise discretion in consideration of others' rights. While the Spartanburg County Public Libraries uphold users' rights to privacy and confidentiality in their use of all library resources, the nature of electronic resources makes it impossible to guarantee these rights.

Conditions and Terms of Use

- Patrons using a public workstation must behave in accordance with the Library's Rules of Conduct.
- SCPL may establish sign-up procedures and time limits for use of the public workstations, and some workstations may be earmarked for specific purposes.
- Library staff will assist patrons in the public computer lab in a manner consistent with other library services. The availability of staff and needs of other patrons may determine the extent of assistance provided to patrons in the computer lab.
- Users may print or download according to the posted procedures.

Users May Not:

- Bypass or disable the SCPL's web filtering software or demonstrate to other patrons how to bypass the employed web filtering software.
- Damage or attempt to damage equipment, alter, or attempt to alter software configurations.
- Attempt to gain unauthorized access to or cause disruption of the Library's or any other computer system.
- Violate copyright laws or software licensing agreements.
- Send or display obscene or offensive images, messages, or files (as defined by S.C. Code 16-15-305).
- Violate state, federal, or local laws or regulations.
- Use their own removable media to download files on the public workstations.
- View sexually explicit content on the Internet workstations.

Penalties for Policy Violations

Violations of this policy may result in loss of access to public computers or other library privileges. Unlawful acts are subject to prosecution by local, state, and federal authorities.

Children's Computer and Internet Use

Spartanburg County Public Libraries affirms the responsibility of parents/guardians to determine the appropriateness of Internet resources for their children. Parents and/or guardians must abide by the Children in the Library Policy and supervise their children's computer and Internet use, as library staff cannot assume this responsibility.

Internet Safety Policy

It is the policy of Spartanburg County Public Libraries to: (a) prevent user access over its computer network to, or transmission of, inappropriate material via Internet, electronic mail, or other forms of direct electronic communications; (b) prevent unauthorized access and other unlawful online activity; (c) prevent unauthorized online disclosure, use, or dissemination of personal identification information of minors; and (d) comply with the Children's Internet Protection Act [Pub. L. No. 106-554 and 47 USC 254(h)].

Definitions

Key terms are as defined in the Children's Internet Protection Act. *

Access to Inappropriate Material

- To the extent practical, technology protection measures (or "Internet filters") shall be used to block or filter Internet, or other forms of electronic communications, access to inappropriate information.
- Specifically, as required by the Children's Internet Protection Act, blocking shall be applied to visual depictions of material deemed obscene or child pornography, or to any material deemed harmful to minors.
- Subject to staff supervision, technology protection measures may be disabled for adults or, in the case of minors, minimized only for bona fide research or other lawful purposes.

Inappropriate Network Usage

- To the extent practical, steps shall be taken to promote the safety and security of users of the SCPL online computer network when using electronic mail, chat rooms, instant messaging, and other forms of direct electronic communications.
- Specifically, as required by the Children's Internet Protection Act, prevention of inappropriate network usage includes: (a) unauthorized access, including so-called 'hacking,' and other unlawful activities; and (b) unauthorized disclosure, use, and dissemination of personal identification information regarding minors.

Education, Supervision and Monitoring

- It shall be the responsibility of all members of the SCPL staff to educate, supervise and monitor appropriate usage of the online computer network and access to the Internet in accordance with this policy, the Children 's Internet Protection Act, the Neighborhood Children's Internet Protection Act, and the Protecting Children in the 21st Century Act.
- Procedures for the disabling or otherwise modifying any technology protection measures shall be the responsibility of the Director of Systems or designated staff.

Adoption

This Internet Safety Policy was adopted by the Board of Spartanburg County Public Libraries at a public meeting, following normal public notice, on <Month, Day, Year>.

** CIPA definitions of terms:*

MINOR The term "minor" means any individual who has not attained the age of 17 years.

TECHNOLOGY PROTECTION MEASURE. The term " technology protection measure" means a specific technology that blocks or filters Internet access to visual depictions that are:

1. OBSCENE, as that term is defined in section 1460 of title 18, United States Code;
2. CHILD PORNOGRAPHY, as that term is defined in section 2256 of title 18, United States Code; or
3. Harmful to minors.

HARMFUL TO MINORS. The term "harmful to minors" means any picture, image, graphic image file, or other visual depiction that:

1. Taken as a whole and with respect to minors, appeals to a prurient interest in nudity, sex, or excretion;
2. Depicts, describes, or represents, in a patently offensive way with respect to what is suitable for minors, an actual or simulated sexual act or sexual contact, actual or simulated normal or perverted sexual acts, or a lewd exhibition of the genitals; and
3. Taken as a whole, it lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value as to minors.

SEXUAL ACT; SEXUAL CONTACT. The terms " sexual act" and " sexual contact" have the meanings given such terms in section 2246 of title 18, United States Code.

This policy has been approved by the Spartanburg County Public Libraries Board, and is subject to Board review.

Adopted 9/16/01;

Revised 11/0/06;

Revised 11/21/23

BOT Approved 2/15/24