



Winter Haven Public Library Internet Policy

The Winter Haven Public Library offers free Internet access to all Library patrons. Although the Internet provides information that is professionally, culturally, and personally enriching, it also provides access to information that may be inaccurate, inflammatory, illegal, offensive, and/or disturbing to some users. The Winter Haven Public Library has no control over information found on the Internet and cannot be held responsible for its content.

While Library staff is happy to assist users in accessing the Internet, staff cannot provide in-depth assistance with Internet resources.

Internet access is contingent on adhering to the following policies set forth by the Library:

Illegal Use of Network

Patrons shall not use the Library's public computers or wireless access services in connection with criminal or civil violations of state, federal, or international laws, regulations, or other government requirements. Such violations include theft or infringement of copyrights, trademarks, trade secrets, or other types of intellectual property; fraud; forgery; theft or misappropriation of funds, credit cards, or personal information; and threats of physical harm or harassment.

Network Security

Patrons shall not use the Library's public computers or wireless access services for the purpose of compromising or attacking the security of a network, service, or other system, through such means as, for example, hacking, monitoring, or using systems without authorization, scanning ports, conducting denial of service attacks, and distributing viruses or other harmful software.

Deletion, addition, or modification of the computers, equipment, or software is forbidden, as is unauthorized entry into other networks or computers. Intentional disruption of the operation of computers or networks is against Florida law. (Florida Statute 815)

Warning: Although virus protection software is installed on all public access computers, this will not completely prevent transmitting a virus. Therefore, it is strongly recommended that virus protection software be installed on personal computers to help prevent transferring a virus via email or personal storage device. The Winter Haven Public Library is not responsible or liable for any damage to a patron's personal hardware, software or data due to the usage of library computers.

Internet transactions involving the use of credit cards are conducted strictly at the risk of the patron.



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Spam

Patrons shall not use the Library's public computers or wireless access services to transmit unsolicited commercial or bulk e-mail messages or to make multiple identical postings in multiple newsgroups, online bulletin boards, or other online forums ("spam").

Offensive Materials

Patrons shall not use the Library's public computers or wireless access services to transmit materials that are generally regarded as offensive, including obscene, pornographic, indecent, and hateful materials.

Viewing obscenity is PROHIBITED. (Florida Statute 847 provides for up to \$1,000 fine and one year in jail.) Patrons violating this law will be informed of the penalties that may be imposed. Subsequent misuse will require Police Department action and all library privileges will be withdrawn and the patron will be banned from the facility.

Because the Library is a public place, Library staff has the authority to end an Internet session if the patron is viewing sites that are offensive.

All computers are enabled with a filter to help prevent access to inappropriate material on the Internet.

Children and the Internet

Parents, guardians and caregivers are encouraged to work with their children to develop acceptable rules of Internet use. It is their responsibility to set family standards and guidelines and to decide which library resources and Internet websites are appropriate for their children. Library staff is available to assist parents and their children with Internet use and to help identify appropriate Internet sites. The Library has neither the right nor the responsibility to act in place of a parent or guardian and assumes no responsibility for the use of the Internet by minors.

**VIOLATIONS OF THIS POLICY WILL RESULT IN LOSS OF INTERNET
ACCESS AND/OR OTHER LIBRARY PRIVILEGES.**

**UNLAWFUL ACTS ARE SUBJECT TO PROSECUTION BY LOCAL,
STATE, AND FEDERAL AUTHORITIES.**