

Stafford Library Computer Use and Internet Safety Policy

Introduction:

The Stafford Library provides computers for public use to our patrons for their informational, educational, recreational, and cultural needs. The computer workstations provide access to software for word processing, spreadsheets, desktop publishing, and the Internet.

The Internet:

The Internet is a world-wide network of computers that can provide users very important and useful information. It is also unregulated and users are cautioned that the Internet may contain information that many consider offensive, vulgar, dangerous, and erroneous. The Stafford Library does not monitor and has no control over the information on the Internet and cannot be held responsible for its content. Internet resources accessible at the Library are provided equally to all library users. Parents or guardians, **NOT THE LIBRARY**, are responsible for Internet information selected and/or accessed by their children. Parents are strongly advised to supervise their children's Internet sessions.

Filtering:

In compliance with the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) [Pub. L. NO. 106-554 and 47USC 254 (h)], in order to remain eligible for certain federal funding, it is the policy of the Stafford Library to: (a) prevent user access or transmission over its computer network to inappropriate material to include; visual depictions of material deemed obscene, child pornography, illegal material, or material deemed harmful to minors.(b) prevent unauthorized access and other unlawful online activity, (c.) prevent unauthorized online disclosure, use, or dissemination of personal identification information of minors.

Filtering software by its nature is imperfect and may unintentionally block sites that have legitimate research value and fail to block objectionable content. Library patrons should be aware that filtering software utilized by the library is not a substitute for individual judgement and/or parental involvement and oversight.

Guidelines for Access and Conditions of Use:

1. A parent or guardian must sign a permission sheet for users under 18 years old.
2. Computer use time is limited to a total of 2 hours per day per person. Time may be extended if no other patrons are waiting to use a computer.
3. The privacy of others will be respected.
4. Printing charges are as follows: \$.10 per page for black ink; \$.25 per page for color.
5. Periodic downtime may occur for staff use, routine maintenance, or technical difficulties.

6. Computers are available on a first come first served basis.
7. Computer equipment must not be altered.
8. No outside equipment may be added to our computers.
9. No one may log in to a computer as another person.
10. Appropriate behavior is required at all times at computer workstations and throughout the library. Patrons are expected to use the Internet in a manner appropriate to a public facility that is used by patrons of all ages.
11. Misuse of computers or Internet access may result in the loss of your computer privileges.

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