

East Troy Lions Public Library Internet Access Policy

Original Policy Approved: 01-14-1997
Policy Updated and Reviewed: 08-14-2001, 11-14-2006, 05-14-2013, 06-12-2018, 07-10-2018, 06-09-2020
Updated Policy Approved: 06-09-2020

Part of the Library's mission is to ensure that the citizens of the East Troy area have free and open access to information and an impartial environment in which to explore the universe of ideas. To that end the Library Board and Library staff will protect intellectual freedom, promote literacy, encourage lifelong learning, and provide Library materials and information resources. By introducing the Internet as an information resource, the Library's goal is to enhance its existing collection in size and depth and, as a public access agency, give opportunity to any citizen who wishes to participate in navigating the Internet.

Historically, the Library has made information available in a variety of formats. Integrating electronic resources from outside networks with the Library's own materials allows access to ideas, information and commentary from around the globe, and demonstrates what the age of electronic information and communication can mean to all citizens of East Troy, regardless of education, occupation, economic status or age.

Currently it is an unregulated medium. As such, while it offers access to a wealth of material that is personally, professionally and culturally enriching to all ages, it also enables access to some materials that may be deemed as offensive, disturbing, and/or illegal. Library staff will assist people of all ages find information from the Internet and will identify specific starting points for searches, but cannot censor access to materials or protect users from information they may find offensive. Library staff cannot act in place of parents/guardians. As with other library materials, supervision or restriction of a child's access to the Internet is the responsibility of the parent or legal guardian. It is also the responsibility of the child, whose curiosity is surely tempered by his or her judgment and upbringing.

Internet Guidelines

Welcome to the East Troy Lions Public Library. By using a public Internet workstation, you agree to the following guidelines:

- 1) All Internet users must present a **valid** library card or driver's license, in order to use the public Internet workstations.
- 2) Prospective users will be asked to sign an Internet agreement statement, **found** on their library card application form, before they are allowed to use a Library computer.
- 3) Youth (those under age 18) who wish to use the Internet must have a parent or guardian's permission noted on their library card application form.
- 4) Please check in at the Circulation Desk before each session.

5) All users of online information are expected to use these resources in a responsible and legal manner consistent with the educational, informational and recreational purposes for which they are provided. These computers are in a public place where other adults and children may view the monitor.

6) For patrons using the Internet, **what they are viewing online must be legal for everyone to view.** The Library Director will discuss this policy with any patron who is viewing sites that are not legal and make a note on his/her Library account that the patron has one (or two) warning(s) against him/her. If a patron has more than two warnings, their internet privileges will be suspended.

7) A patron may appeal the decision of suspension and approach the Library Board (via a letter or email sent to the Library Board President) to ask that their case be re-considered. The Library Board will review and vote on the appeal.

8) All users are financially liable if they temporarily or permanently damage any equipment or software.

9) Workstations are available on a first-come, first-served basis. When all of the computers are in use and there are users waiting, all users may be limited to 30 minutes per session. **At all other times, there is a 120 minute (2 hour) limit per day, per library card for the use of a workstation.**

10) If patrons are using the computers for educational, or professional/job related purposes, then two patrons may use the same computer. Otherwise, use is limited to one person, per computer at a time.

11) A discussion of child safety on the Internet is presented at the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. This information can be found online at: www.netismartz.org/Home and parents/guardians are encouraged to review this information with their children. This is especially important in light of the fact that our Internet workstations do not have filters.