Sharon Public Library
community · literacy · technology
11 North Main Street | Sharon, MA 02067

Computer and Internet Use Policy

The Sharon Public Library computers provide access to electronic resources, including those on the Internet. Access is a privilege, not a right, and requires responsibility on the part of the user.

The Internet offers unlimited global access to all types of information. Not all sources are accurate, complete, current, legal, or philosophically acceptable to all people. Some information may be offensive, controversial, illegal, erroneous, etc. It is the responsibility of the user to select or reject online information based on good judgment and discretion.

Library staff cannot fully monitor or control the content of the materials on the Internet, which changes rapidly and unpredictably. Parents and guardians of minor children must assume responsibility for their children's use of the Internet just as they must with printed materials or visual materials.

Acceptable Use

All electronic traffic originating from the library computers will be under acceptable use standards. Failure to abide by these standards may result in the loss of Internet, computer, or other privileges.

- Respect the privacy of others.
- Comply with copyright law and licensing for individual data and programs.
- Be considerate of the security and functionality of the computers, computer networks, and systems.

Unacceptable Use

Computing resources may only be used for legal purposes by the public and staff per the ethical standards of the library. Examples of unacceptable use include, but are not limited to the following:

- Uses for any purposes that violate applicable federal, state, or local laws including copyright.
- Interfering with or disrupting other computer users, services, or equipment.

- Attempting to or gaining unauthorized entry to other computing, information, or communications sources or devices (hacking).
- Malicious, threatening, harassing, or obscene behavior or language.
- Obscene behavior includes the public display of obscene materials on computer screens or in hard copy.
- Misrepresentation of oneself or the computing center.
- Activities that could cause congestion and disruption of networks and systems.
- Unsolicited advertising.
- To access, upload, download, transmit, or distribute pornographic, obscene, or sexually explicit language or material.
- The user is responsible for any damage they cause to the computers or equipment.

Parents' Responsibility for Minor Children

- Parents are responsible for monitoring their minor children's use of the Internet.
- The library does not block or filter internet sites.

Confidential Information

- Users are cautioned to guard closely the security of personal information, credit card numbers, computer accounts, passwords, and other types of authorizations when using the Internet.
- Users are cautioned to take steps to protect their systems from computer viruses and other destructive computer programs when downloading programs to disk for use on other computers.
- Electronic files should not be considered confidential. When required by law, the Sharon Public Library must disclose all files to the extent required by law.
- The Sharon Public Library is not liable for any direct or indirect and/or punitive damages (including lost data or information) sustained or incurred in connection with the use or unavailability of the system.

The use of the computers is on a first-come, first-served basis. Time limits may be set for those waiting.