

# Horicon Public Library

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## **Internet Computer and Wireless Policy**

The Library has available access to the internet for the public via library computers or wireless access for personal devices. The purpose of providing this service is the wealth of information on the Internet, which expands the resources the Library is able to offer. It allows access to ideas, information, and commentary from around the globe. Currently, it is an unregulated medium. No one controls the Internet's contents. While it offers many benefits, it also enables access to some material that may be inaccurate, offensive, pornographic, disturbing, and/or illegal. Clients and staff should remember that some material on the Internet may be outdated, wrong, or biased. All information should be critically evaluated. The benefits of access outweigh the disadvantages, but caution should be employed when using this resource.

Clients of the internet stations shall have on file a signed copy of the Internet Computer and Wireless Policy.

Clients for both the internet stations and wireless network must agree to the Library's Internet and Wireless Policy every time they log on.

Since the Internet may contain materials that are: offensive, pornographic, disturbing, and/or illegal, parental written permission must be obtained for those patrons under the age of 18. The form will be signed in the presence of an adult library staff person. Parents are strongly encouraged to monitor their child's use of the Internet.

The Library staff does not monitor use of the Internet except when material displayed on the screen is not appropriate in a public environment. Since the Internet workstation is in the Library, in view of other clients and staff, clients are not permitted to display visual images containing pornography, offensive language, or graphic violence.

Clients may use their personal device to access the free wireless network. The wireless network is not encrypted, and information sent to or from your device may be at risk. The wireless network is available during library hours from the Library proper and immediately outside the facility. Personal devices are subject to the same monitoring and are not permitted to display visual images containing pornography, offensive language, or graphic violence.

Downloading will be allowed on library computers and personal devices as long as it is not meant to damage the Library's network or computer. Any files downloaded to library computers will be erased at the end of each user's session. Hacking, destroying files, loading, or creating viruses is not allowed. Users may not change setup configuration of the Library's hardware or software.

Use of the Library's internet stations or wireless access for illegal purposes will not be tolerated.

Individuals may not use the Library's email network to send or receive e-mail.

Since printing is an ongoing expense incurred by the Library, clients who print images or text from the internet are charged a fee, the same rate for copy printing at the Library.

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Clients are allowed a maximum of three hours per day, allotted in one-hour increments. If there is a waiting list, clients having completed their first increment will be asked to vacate their computer in the order they were logged on.

Since the Internet is an information service provided by the Library, and since there is potential for groups to form around the Internet workstation, only one client at a time will be allowed at the Internet workstation. The exception to this is when a parent/guardian accompanies his child at the workstation. This situation is strongly encouraged. Another exception is at the librarian's discretion, for example when two people are working on a research project, etc.

Intentional misuse or abuse of the computer, internet access, or policy violations may result in suspension of computer or internet access privileges, legal prosecution, or both.