

Acceptable Use of Computers and the Internet by Adult Patrons

(Approved by the Board: June 2009; reviewed June 2011; revised November 2014; reviewed June 2018)

Computer use is a voluntary action initiated by patrons. Plainfield-Guilford Township Public Library considers the use of the computers a privilege extended to patrons. Therefore, patrons are expected to comply with the guidelines of this policy.

Freedom of expression is the foundation for self-government. Freedom encompasses the right to freedom of speech and the corollary right to receive information. The Plainfield-Guilford Township Public Library facilitates the exercise of these rights by providing access to information regardless of format or technology. In order that all citizens of Guilford Township have access to electronic information, the library provides publicly-supported computer stations and Internet access.

The Plainfield-Guilford Township Public Library does not assume responsibility for any direct or indirect damages arising from the use of library computers, personal computers, personal devices, or their connections to Internet services. The library cannot control the resources on the Internet because it is not a static entity. The Internet changes each minute as new web sites connect and existing web sites add or delete content. Some sites accessible via the Internet may contain material that is inaccurate, defamatory, illegal or offensive to some people. While the library may attempt to prevent access to materials that would not generally be acceptable in a public library, it is technically impossible to prevent access to all resources that might be objectionable to some people.

The library's public computer network stations are intended primarily for information gathering. The Plainfield-Guilford Township Public Library reserves the right to restrict or deny use of electronic mail (e-mail), chat rooms, newsgroups and other interactive services by library patrons. The library also reserves the right to limit the time a person may use a public computer.

Use of the library's computers for illegal or criminal purposes or to seek access into unauthorized areas is strictly prohibited. Users must respect all copyright laws and licensing agreements pertaining to software, files or other resources obtained via the computers. Users whose conduct violates federal, state or local laws may be prosecuted to the full extent of the law.

Users must refrain from inappropriate Internet conduct. Examples of inappropriate conduct include: misrepresenting oneself or the library, sending spam, using abusive or objectionable language in either public or private messages, engaging in harassing behavior such as sending or posting slanderous, libelous, seditious, obscene or threatening messages.

The library reserves the right to deny computer use to anyone who does not comply with these guidelines. Finally, the library reserves the right to monitor what appears on the computer screens and the activities that are being carried out on the computers in the library.