

Alva Public Library

Internet Policy and Guidelines

Purpose and Disclaimer

The mission of the Alva Public Library is to provide access to a broad range of informational resources, including those available through Internet. Internet access to ideas and information from around the world is a valuable resource. However, in offering Internet access, the library makes no claim to the accuracy or validity of the information. Not all sources on the Internet are accurate, complete or up-to-date. The availability of networked information via library terminals does not constitute the library's endorsement of the content of that information.

Wireless Internet access is available in the library building during hours the library open. Access is available 24 hours a day in the library parking areas or pocket park. This access is not a secure connection and caution should be used concerning personal information.

Responsibility of Users

- The Internet computer stations are located in public areas; users may not display material, especially graphics, which would be considered inappropriate for public viewing. No user of the library's Internet workstations has any expectation of privacy.
- All Internet users must check-in at the front desk before using the Internet computers. If a user is a minor under age of 17 then a parent/legal guardian must give permission in the presence of a library staff member and the staff member will record the permission on the patron's electronic library information card.
- The Internet computers are available during the hours the library is open except if the staff needs to make modifications to the computers.
- As the Internet is an unregulated medium, users search the Internet at their own risk, realizing that some sites may carry information which a user may find controversial, indecent, or inappropriate. Parents are encouraged to monitor their child on the Internet for safety and content. Users are responsible for the sites they visit. In the case of minors it is a joint responsibility of the user and the parent/guardian. Because parents or guardians may feel that information available on the Internet is not suitable for viewing by children in their care, supervision is advised. Patrons should evaluate Internet sources just as they do print materials, questioning the accuracy, authority, and completeness of the information.
- Computer privileges will be temporarily or permanently revoked if a patron involves himself/herself in conflict with others while using library computers. This includes comments or postings that are harassing, threatening physical or emotional harm toward another person, personal information of another person published without consent, and behavior with the intent of annoying another person.
- The library Internet computers are limited to one hour sessions with a maximum of a two-hour daily time limit.

Personal CD's cannot be used on library computers without the permission of a librarian. However, portable USB storage devices are permissible. The Alva Public Library is not responsible for damage to a patron's USP drive or for any loss of data, damage, or liability that may occur from patron use of the library's computers.

Unacceptable uses of the Internet computer include: Destruction, damage or tampering with the equipment, software, or data belonging to the library; no downloading of programs, unauthorized monitoring or disruption of electronic communications; transmitting of threatening or harassing materials, libeling, hacking, slandering or maliciously offending other users; attempting to crash, degrade performance of or gain unauthorized access to the library's computer system and networks; modifying or damaging equipment software or data belonging to the library or other users and exposing children to harmful materials; engaging in activities that relate to material involving the sexual exploitation of minors as defined by Federal Code Title 18, Part I, Chapter 110 and of the Oklahoma Statue Title 21 Chapter 39 or accessing obscene materials.

Violating copyright laws or software licensing agreements.

U.S. Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S. Code) prohibits the unauthorized reproduction or distribution of copyrighted materials, except as permitted by the principles of "fair use". Users may not copy or distribute electronic materials (including electronic mail, text, images, programs or data), without the explicit permission of the copyright holder. Responsibility for any consequences of copyright infringement lies with the user. The library expressly disclaims any liability or responsibility resulting from such use.

Library Assistance

- The Library cannot protect patrons from information they may find offensive.
- Library staff is able to offer searching suggestions and answer some basic questions; they cannot and will not be able to provide in-depth training on Internet use.
- The Library uses technology protection measures (filtering software) that meets the requirements of the children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) by protecting users from visual depictions that are a)obscene; b) child pornography; and C) harmful to minors. Subject to staff supervision, certain blocked websites can be made accessible for adults. The adult must make the request to the library director. The filtering system tracks every URL used inside our network. We endeavor to protect your privacy, but federal regulations may require us to disclose any and all of your URL sites visited.
- The Library cannot protect the security of any personal information provided on the Internet and strongly discourages the release of personal information.

There is a \$.25 a page charge for printing from the computers. Print copies can be picked up at the circulation desk. The patron is responsible for the amount of pages they print even if they are printed in error.

If a violation of the Alva Public Library's Internet policy occurs, the first occurrence will result in a verbal warning and be documented by the library staff. The second occurrence will result in Internet privileges being suspended for one full month and be documented by the library staff. The third occurrence will result in permanent revocation of all Internet privileges indefinitely and be documented by the library staff. Illegal uses of Internet workstations may also be subject to prosecution by local, state, or federal authorities.