

HOUSTON COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Acceptable Use for Wireless Internet

Welcome to the Houston County Public Library's Public Access to databases including Internet. This access enables us to fulfill our mission to serve as a major information center for the community by providing educational, recreational, and informational materials, programs, and services.

Purpose

To expand upon the Library's mission to provide public access to information in a wide range of formats, the Houston County Public Library System now provides Wireless Internet Access to library patrons who have a library card and are in good standing. Wireless Internet Access is available at all three libraries in the county.

Acceptable Use

The Houston County Public Libraries are committed to providing an environment appropriate for its patrons and employees. Patrons utilizing the wireless connection agree to comply with all provisions of the Library's **Internet Policy**. Wireless Internet users are asked to refrain from displaying materials on their personal computers that may be interpreted as intimidating, hostile, offensive or inappropriate. Internet users should not display offensive material to passersby.

Since the Internet is an unregulated and rapidly changing medium; it is possible to inadvertently find material that is offensive or disturbing to some users. Our wireless network is equipped with a filtering system that meets the requirements for CIPA, and our filtering hardware/software is supplied and administered by the Georgia Public Library Services through the Board of Regents. Despite these provisions, customers may still encounter sites they find personally offensive. For this reason, patrons must assume responsibility for their own use of the Internet.

Transmission, reception, or display of any material of communications in violation of any U.S. or state regulation is prohibited, including but not limited to:

Unauthorized duplication or distribution of copyrighted material

Access or dissemination of threatening or obscene material, or of material protected as trade secrets.

Users should not use internet services to acquire or display pornographic materials. Georgia law prohibits display of materials harmful to minors in places frequented by minors.

The Library reserves the right to take appropriate action to insure compliance with this policy. Library will determine if something is offensive to others. This also includes the use of profanity, obscenity, or other language that may be offensive to another user.

All computer use will cease 15 minutes before the library closes.

Disclaimer

The Library's wireless connection is unencrypted and unfiltered. Use of the wireless connection is done at the patron's own risk. By using this connection, patrons acknowledge that hacking and security concerns are an inherent risk associated with any wireless service. For that reason, patrons expressly agree that they knowingly assume such risk, and further agree to hold the Library harmless from any claim or loss arising out of, or related to, any such instance of hacking or other unauthorized use of access into the patron's computer.

The Library accepts no responsibility for any software downloaded and/or installed, email opened, or sites accessed while patrons are using the Library's wireless Internet connection. Any damage done to the patron's equipment or self from accessing the Internet from the Library's wireless access point is the sole responsibility of the patron; and the patron indemnifies and holds harmless the Library from any such damage.

The Library accepts no responsibility regarding the ability of patron-owned equipment to connect to the wireless network. Library staff will not change settings on patron equipment.

Because not all sources on the Internet provide accurate, complete, or current information, patrons are advised to use information from the Internet at their own risk. The library does not warrant or guarantee the reliability or truthfulness of information obtained from the Internet. The library shall have no liability for direct, indirect, or consequential damages related to use of information accessed via the Internet.

In addition, patrons shall agree to hold harmless, indemnify, and unconditionally reimburse the Houston County Public Library of any damage, liability, costs, claims, or expenses that the Houston County Public Library may incur that arises in any manner from any use or misuse of the Internet by a patron.

All Internet resources accessible through the library are provided equally to all users. There is no age limit for use of any material via our Internet services. Patrons under 18 whose parents have given them signed permission have access to the same resources as adults. It is the library's policy that parents or legal guardians must assume responsibility for deciding what resources are appropriate for their children.

VIOLATIONS

Violations of the Houston County Public Library Internet policy will result in the following:

- 1st Offense - "Inappropriate Use of the Internet - 1st Warning" note on patron record.
 - 2nd Offense - "Inappropriate Use of the Internet - 2nd Offense" note on patron record. Patron's Internet privileges suspended for 90 days.
 - 3rd Offense - "Inappropriate Use of the Internet - 3rd Offense" note on patron record. Patron's Internet privileges suspended permanently.
-