Internet Use

The Midland Park Memorial Library supports the principle of open, free, and unrestricted access to information and ideas, regardless of the format in which they appear. This position is supported by both the American Library Association and the New Jersey Library Association. The Library endorses the American Library Association's "Library Bill of Rights" and its "Resolution on the Use of Filtering Software in Libraries" as well as the New Jersey Library Association's statement on "Restriction of Internet Access and Use of Filtering Software in Libraries".

Internet access is available to all patrons of the Midland Park Memorial Library. The Midland Park Memorial Library provides no Internet filtering. This position is strengthened by the Supreme Court ruling, which states that communications on the Internet receive the same level of constitutional protection as books, magazines, and newspapers. The Library supports the concept that the individual alone is responsible for deciding which resources are appropriate and necessary for their own use. The Library also stresses that it is the responsibility of parents/guardians alone to guide their own children's use of the library, its resources, and its services.

The Library staff cannot control the availability of information links on the Internet, many of which change rapidly and unpredictably. Not all sources on the Internet provide accurate, complete, unbiased, or current information. It is up to the patron alone to determine the worth of any information they find on the Internet

Since the library computers are located in public areas and shared by users of varying ages, backgrounds, and sensibilities, individuals are asked to consider this when accessing potentially controversial information and images. Accessing material deemed harmful to minors or engaging in any activity that is deliberately offensive or creates an intimidating or hostile environment is prohibited.

The First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution does not protect all Internet content. No Midland Park Memorial Library computer may be used to view or display obscenity, child pornography, or other illegal content. The legal status of any particular content can be determined only by a court of law with proper jurisdiction. The First Amendment does not protect acts that violate a criminal law.

Library patrons may not use the Internet for any illegal activity or place any material on the Internet related to any illegal activity. It is the responsibility of the user to respect all copyright laws and licensing agreements.

Other prohibited behavior includes: gambling on the internet; unauthorized access, including hacking, spamming or other unlawful activities; invasion of other people's privacy or intrusion upon their rights; viewing or transmitting threatening, obscene, or harassing materials. Illegal acts involving library computers may be subject to prosecution by local, state, or federal authorities.

Patrons are expected to adhere to the Midland Park Memorial Library's "Internet Policy for Public Use" as well as the Library's "Rules for Internet Computer Use" and the Library's "Rules for Children's Internet Computers". Patrons who do not follow the rules of the Library's policies regarding computer and Internet usage will be banned from using the Library's computers.

Rules for Internet Computer Use

Users must be familiar with the Library's "Rules for Internet Computer Use."

There will be no group sharing of computers. Patrons cannot request specific computers.

Users must perform their own searches. Staff provides limited instruction; time permitted. On the basics of the internet and computer use. Users will be charged a posted fee for each printed page. Users will not be able to use envelopes or other materials that are likely to jam printers. Users are authorized to use flash drives and/or discs in drives.

Computers and printers must be used as provided. If any user abuses or engages in unauthorized use of computers, their computer privileges will be denied. E-mail transmission or receipt is permitted.

Computers must be turned off 15 minutes prior to library closing.

Rules for Internet Computer Use

Children's' Department

Use of computers in the Children's Department is restricted to users between the ages of 5 and 12. Young children must be accompanied by a parent at the computer. There will be no group sharing of computers.

Parents/guardians of users must be familiar with the Library's "Policy and Guidelines for Responsible Internet Use".

Computers are intended for homework (Word, Powerpoint, Excel, Google docs) and cataloging only. Children are not permitted to use the internet or play games.

Users must perform their own searches. Staff provides limited instruction; time permitting, on the basics of Internet and computer use.

Printing is directed to a coin operated printer. Users must pay for all copies to release the print job.

Users are authorized to use flash drives and /or discs in drives.

If any user abuses or engages in unauthorized use of computers, their computer privileges will be denied. E-mail transmission or receipt of e-mail is permitted.

Parents and children must turn off computers 15 minutes prior to library closing.

Wi-Fi

The Midland Park Memorial Library will provide free Internet access points for users with portable computers or devices capable of receiving wireless signals, during normal library business hours. These access points will allow users to access the Internet from their laptop computers when sitting within range of the access points.

Library staff will provide general information on the settings necessary to access the Internet via these connections, but are not responsible for any changes users make to their computer settings and cannot guarantee that a user's hardware will work with the library's wireless connection.

If a user has problems accessing the Internet over these connections, staff cannot assist in making changes to the user's network settings or perform any troubleshooting on the user's own computer. Users should refer to their owner's manual or other support services offered by their device manufacturer.

As with most public wireless access points, the library's wireless connection is not secure. There can be non-trustworthy third parties between the user and anybody with whom the user communicates. Any information being sent or received could potentially be intercepted by another wireless user. Cautious and informed wireless users should not transmit their credit card information, passwords and any other sensitive personal information while using any wireless access point.

The library will not be responsible for any personal information (e.g. credit card) that is compromised, or for any damage caused to your hardware or software due to electronic surges, security issues or consequences caused by patrons' voluntary use of the free Wi-Fi access. All wireless access users should take whatever measures they deem necessary to protect their personal laptop computers or wireless devices.

Printers are not available via the wireless connection at this time. If users need to print, they should save their work to a portable storage device (e.g. flash drive) or wait to print a document on a home computer. An alternative is to email files to themselves, then login to a wired library workstation and send documentation to the public printer.

Use of these access points is governed by the Midland Park Memorial Library Internet Use Policy. All users are expected to use the library's wireless access in a legal and responsible manner, consistent with the educational and informational purposes for which it is provided. Users should not violate federal, New Jersey or local laws, including the transmission or receiving of child pornography or harmful material, fraud, or downloading copyrighted material.

Any restriction or monitoring of a minor's access to the library's wireless network is the sole responsibility of the parent or guardian.