

Internet Use Policy

It is the intention of the Southwick Public Library to offer its patrons access to the Internet. The following policies are understood to be the conditions by which this service is offered. This policy includes using the library's Wi-Fi connection or the library's hotspots.

1. The Southwick Public Library offers Internet service to all Massachusetts patrons in good standing (not restricted because of fines or lost materials). Patrons must present their library card. If they don't have their card or are from out-of-state, they may present their driver's license or other commonly accepted form of a picture I.D. There will be a one hour limit per day for computer usage per patron only if other patrons are waiting. Exceptions may be made for job searching, homework, etc. if there aren't patrons waiting to use a computer.
2. All patrons who wish to use a library computer must sign-up at the Reference Desk.
3. Patrons may not alter the configurations on the computer for any reason. The computer will be checked, and if found that changes have been made, that patron will not be able to use the library's computers for 30 days.
4. The Library cannot offer its patrons email accounts.
5. The Library staff **cannot** offer instruction when you sign-up to use a computer on Internet usage and searching the web, but will make materials available to assist patrons in usage and locating relevant websites.
6. Patrons should use caution in their disclosure of personally identifiable information by email and other forms of direct electronic communications, as these forms of communication can expose patrons to dangerous materials and intrusions.
7. Patrons should also use caution when accessing personal financial accounts on the library's wireless Internet or public computers, as the network is not password secured and public computers are by definition shared with all.
8. Children through grade six unaccompanied by an adult are only to use the Internet access computer located in the Children's Room. Those computers are

equipped with filtering software (Net Nanny). Even with this filtering device, it may still be possible for one to find information that might be considered inappropriate. Parents or guardians must accompany their children through grade six who wish to use the unfiltered computers in the Adult Library. While those who are in seventh grade and older may access the unfiltered computers, anyone reported to be on an objectionable site will be asked to leave it. Repeated violations in this regard will result in that patron being barred from future use of the Internet computers.

The following prohibitions apply equally to all patrons – adults and minors (under the age of eighteen) – who enter and access the Internet on any devices within or outside the library.

1. Patrons shall not access material that meets the state law definition of obscenity, including most especially, but not limited to, child pornography. This type of material is illegal and constitutes a potential source of harassment to other patrons and library staff; as such, it will not be tolerated.
2. Patrons shall not use library resources to engage in attempts to otherwise disrupt, interfere with, damage, illegally hack, or illicitly access websites or attempt to otherwise disrupt, interfere with, damage, or illicitly access websites and electronic data or systems.
3. Patrons shall not engage in any illegal activities, or transmit threatening, obscene or harassing messages or materials.

Library staff who observe violations of this policy directly or through the reports of other patrons will intercede with the patron in violation. The consequences of policy violation may include asking the patron to leave the Library and the grounds for a specified period of time and / or losing some or all of their library privileges. Actionable offenses will not be tolerated and will be reported to the appropriate authorities.