

Plymouth Public Library Internet Access Policy

Revised: April 1, 2025

1.0 PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to clearly state the Plymouth Public Library's (aka "the Library") position on internet access and clarify the rights and responsibilities of the Library's patrons while accessing the Library's internet.

2.0 POLICY GUIDELINES

A. SERVICES

The Plymouth Public Library provides public computers with internet access and free Wi-Fi, in support of our mission to meet the informational, educational, cultural, and recreational needs of the community. The unique, unregulated nature of the internet requires that users exercise judgment regarding information accessible on various internet sites.

All online resources accessible through the Library are provided equally to all Library users. Parents/guardians are responsible for their children's use of online resources and are advised to supervise their children's online sessions. The Library assumes no responsibility for children's use of online resources. Library staff can provide resources to assist parents/guardians in guiding their children's internet use.

The Library maintains a website which includes a variety of resources and links to assist our patrons in accessing online information.

Library staff are not available to provide internet instruction beyond routine assistance in finding resources.

B. RULES

Internet access is available via public computers and on personal devices via Wi-Fi.

Internet users may not:

1. attempt to damage computer equipment or software; alter software configurations; cause degradation of system performance;
2. use any Library workstation for illegal or criminal purposes;
3. violate copyright laws or software licensing agreements;
4. engage in any activity which is disruptive, offensive, libelous, or slanderous;
5. install or download any software;
6. use audio or visuals which might be disruptive to others;
7. violate another user's privacy;
8. send, receive, or display inappropriate materials, defined as text, audio, or graphics, which may reasonably be construed as obscene.

C. SECURITY

Library users have both the right of confidentiality and the right of privacy. Internet users should be advised that because security is technically difficult to achieve, electronic transactions and files could become public. The Library's public wireless connection is not secure. There can be untrustworthy third parties between the user and anybody with whom the user communicates. Any information being received or sent could potentially be intercepted by another wireless user. The Library will not be responsible for any personal information that is compromised.

D. COPYRIGHT

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 holders. Any responsibility for any consequences of copyright infringement lies with the user; the Library expressly disclaims any liability or responsibility resulting from such use.

E. VIOLATIONS

Violations of the Internet Access Policy may result in the loss of Library internet privileges. Violations of the rules described above will be dealt with in a serious and appropriate manner; illegal acts involving Library computer resources may also be subject to prosecution by local, state, or federal authorities.

3.0 APPLICABILITY

This policy applies to all users and patrons of the Plymouth Public Library.

4.0 CONTACT

Library Director, Plymouth Public Library.

Signed By:


Chair, Select Board


Town Manager

4/1/2025
Date

4/1/2025
Date