

Access to the Internet

- Public computers with internet access and wireless internet (WiFi) are available at all Suffolk Public Library locations.
- A valid Suffolk Public Library card or guest pass may be used to make a computer reservation.
- The Library has no control over and will not be accountable for the accuracy, currency, or content of the information and graphics accessed through the Internet or computer programs except as provided below to meet the requirements of the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) and/or Virginia State Law.
- As required by CIPA, internet access and wireless internet (WiFi) will use a technology protection measure to:
 - (a) prevent user access over its computer network to, or transmission of, inappropriate material via Internet, electronic mail, or other forms of direct electronic communications; (b) prevent unauthorized access and other unlawful online activity; (c) prevent unauthorized online disclosure, use, or dissemination of personal identification information of minors; and (d) comply with the Children's Internet Protection Act [Pub. L. No. 106-554 and 47 USC 254(h)].
- Specifically, as required by CIPA, blocking shall be applied to visual depictions of material deemed obscene or child pornography, or to any material deemed harmful to minors.
- Subject to staff supervision, technology protection measures may be disabled for adults or, in the case of minors, minimized only for bona fide research or other lawful purposes.
- To the extent practical, steps shall be taken to promote the safety and security of users to the online computer network when using electronic mail, chat rooms, instant messaging, and other forms of direct electronic communications.
- Specifically, as required by CIPA, prevention of inappropriate network usage includes: (a) unauthorized access, including so-called 'hacking,' and other unlawful activities; and (b) unauthorized disclosure, use, and dissemination of personal identification information regarding minors.
- Library staff are responsible for educating the community about this policy and for the disabling or otherwise modifying of any technology protection measures.
- As required by Virginia State law, all public Internet computers will use a technology protection measure to filter or block access to child pornography (Section 18.2-374.1:1), obscenity (Section 18.2-372), and with respect to minors, any materials deemed harmful to juveniles (Section 18.2-390).

Public Computer Use

- Library customers may use the public computers and/or wireless internet during business hours. Public computers may shut down 15 minutes prior to the library closing. There is no time limit on public computer usage as long as there is no one waiting to use the computers.
- Public computers are available on a first come, first served basis.
- Use of unauthorized software on Library computers is prohibited.
- The Library is not responsible for any replacement and/or damage to a person's storage device, computer, and/or data.

Printing & Copying

- Printouts and copies are 20 cents per side (black and white) or 40 cents per side (color).

Staff Assistance

- The staff may provide limited assistance with technology as knowledge and time allow.

Illegal Usage

It is prohibited for library employees or patrons to use the Library's computer for illegal or illicit purposes. Child pornography, obscenity, and, with respect to minors, any materials deemed harmful to juveniles are also prohibited on the library's computers.

Internet use must not violate federal, state, or local laws or statutes including, but not limited to the following:

- Code of the City of Suffolk, Virginia Section 50-3
- Code of Virginia Title 18.2 Article 5 regarding obscenity and related offenses.
- Code of Virginia Title 18.2 Article 6 regarding Juveniles
- Credit Card Fraud Act of 1984
- Credit Card Fraud and Abuse Act of 1986
- Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) of 2000
- The Computer Fraud and Abuse act of 1986
- The Electronic Communications Privacy Act
- The United States Copyright Act
- The Virginia Computer Crimes Act
- USC Title 18 Chapter 71 Sections 1465 – 1468 regarding distribution of obscene materials
- USC Title 18 Chapter 110 regarding the Sexual Exploitation and Other Abuse of Children

Library Staff will assess each situation and consequences may include calling the authorities, having computer privileges suspended, and being asked to leave the library premises.

Approved by the Suffolk Library Advisory Board, July 20, 2021.