

INTERNET ACCESS & COMPUTER USE POLICY

INTERNET RESOURCES

Most resources available via the Internet and other electronic information networks are not “local” resources. The Julia Hull District Library does not and cannot control the information content available via the Internet, Electronic databases and other information networks. Patrons must keep in mind the following points when evaluating information obtained via these sources:

1. Information obtained via electronic information network resources and Internet links may or may not be reliable, accurate, up to date, valid, and particular information sites on the Internet may sometimes be unavailable .
2. Certain information obtained via the electronic information network resources may be considered offensive or inappropriate by some library patrons.

The Julia Hull District Library urges patrons to be informed consumers and carefully evaluate information obtained via the electronic information network resources. Library staff members may be available to assist patrons in making judgments about the reliability or currency of certain types of electronic network resources, but are unable to provide definitive analysis of particular sources due to the extremely large variety and volume of information available via the electronic network resource.

RESPONSIBILITY OF PATRONS

The Julia Hull District Library cannot assure privacy or system security and is not responsible for damages, indirect or direct, arising from a library patron’s use of electronic network resources. Patrons are urged to respect the sensibilities of others when accessing information that may reasonably be offensive to someone else. However, absolute privacy in accessing and using the electronic information networks in the library cannot be guaranteed. There exists a possibility of inadvertent viewing by others. The “Patron Behavior Policy” applies to the behavior of patrons using the library’s electronic information networks. Access, use or dissemination of information via the electronic information networks in the library is the responsibility of the patron.

USE OF EQUIPMENT & NETWORKS

Computer access is granted to public library patrons during normal business hours. When school is in session, public patrons may be limited to those terminals in the Community Room. Students are limited to those computers in the Main Library.

Internet workstations are available on a first come, first served basis to registered library users whose library card is current and unblocked. Temporary computer access may be granted to visitors outside of the Library District who sign and abide the library’s Internet & Computer Use Agreement. Library staff reserves the right to set time limits on patron use in the case that the internet workstations reach capacity.

The Julia Hull District Library requires that library patrons using the Internet or other electronic information networks do so within the guidelines of acceptable use. The following activities are *unacceptable*:

1. Use of electronic information networks for any purpose which results in the harassment of other users and staff members;
2. destruction of, damage to, or unauthorized alteration of the library's computer equipment software, network security procedures, or any activities which interfere with or disrupt network users, services or equipment;
3. use of electronic information networks in any way which violates a Federal, State, or local law;
4. use of electronic information networks in any way which violates licensing and payment agreements between the Julia Hull District Library and network or database providers;
5. unauthorized duplication of copy protected software or violation of software license agreements;
6. violation of any copyright laws;
7. violation of system security;
8. behaving in a manner which is disruptive to other users, including, but not limited to overuse of computer equipment which serves to deny access to other users.

Illegal acts involving library computer resources will be reported to the police and may be subject to prosecution by local, state or federal authorities. Patrons who damage library software or equipment are responsible for replacement costs.

WIRELESS ACCESS

The Julia Hull District Library provides an unfiltered/unsecured wireless access network for users with wireless electronic devices. Patrons utilizing the library's wireless connection should therefore take precautions to protect their personal equipment from viruses, as well as when electronically transmitting personal information. Use of the Julia Hull District Library wireless access network is entirely at the risk of the user. The library assumes no responsibility for the safety of equipment or device configurations, security, or data files resulting from connection to the library's wireless access network or the Internet, or liability for any consequent damage to hardware, software or data.

Wireless signal strength may vary day to day, and there is no printing capability. Patrons using the library's wireless connection agree to abide the policy that prohibits abusive or illegal activity while using this access. The library cannot guarantee that a specific hardware will work with the library's wireless access network. If a user experiences problems connecting to a wireless access point, staff will verify that the library's wireless access network is operational, but are not trained or expected to troubleshoot wireless devices.

PATRON ASSISTANCE AND INSTRUCTION

The Julia Hull District Library's staff may provide assistance to patrons in the use of electronic information networks as time and staff knowledge permits.

CHILDREN'S ACCESS TO ELECTRONIC INFORMATION NETWORKS

The Julia Hull District Library supports the right of all library users to access information and will not deny access to electronic information networks based solely on age. The library recognizes that electronic information networks, such as the Internet, contain material inappropriate for children. As with other library materials, supervision of a child's access to electronic information networks is the responsibility of the parent or legal guardian. The library provides unfiltered access to the electronic information networks and it's the responsibility of the parent/guardian to choose the type of access for their children under the age of 18. Parents are encouraged to discuss with their children issues of safe and appropriate use of electronic resources. Library staff cannot monitor children's use.

CIPA

Any computers purchased with Illinois State or Federal funding such as the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) Grants which allow Internet access and which require compliance of the Child Internet Protection Act (CIPA) shall filter content deemed offensive by CIPA standards. "Offensive" content includes items that: (a) are obscene, (b) are child pornography, or (c) are harmful to minors (for computers that are accessed by minors).

USER AGREEMENTS

Adult

Patrons wishing to use the library's electronic information networks must sign the *Internet Access & Computer User Agreement* of the Julia Hull District Library.

Children

A parent or guardian must sign an *Internet Access & Computer User Agreement* for youth age 18 and under.

BREACH OF POLICY

Violation of any aspect of this policy may result in the loss of library privileges.