

Internet Access Policy

The Lynnfield Public Library endeavors to develop collections, resources and services that meet the cultural, informational, recreational and educational needs of the community.

Electronic databases and networks such as the Internet are supplementing and sometimes taking the place of print resources that the Library has traditionally made available to its users. The Internet has become the medium of choice for the dissemination of information from many agencies of the U.S. and state government as well as providers of time sensitive material. As such, it is an important resource to our Library. The Internet has a wealth of information and varieties of resources available. Patrons are encouraged to ask for assistance from the Reference Librarian to navigate and determine the most trustworthy and best quality sources for their research.

Internet access is provided in agreement with the American Library Association's "Library Bill of Rights", <http://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/librarybill>, as it applies to information in electronic format, and in accordance with the Massachusetts General Laws (Chapter 78, Section 33), which state in part, "material should not be excluded because of the origin, background, or views of those contributing to their creation." The Library provides on-site access through public computers and free wireless Internet hotspots.

The Lynnfield Public Library does not monitor and has no control over the information accessed through the Internet and cannot be held responsible for its content. While there is much valuable and valid information on the Internet, some sites may be considered offensive to some patrons. There is no software filter installed on the public computers in the Reading Room and there is no access to the Internet on the computers in the Children's Room. As with other Library materials, restriction of a minor's access to the Internet is the responsibility of a parent or legal guardian.

The following cautions apply equally to all patrons – adults and minors (under the age of eighteen) – who enter and use the Internet within the library.

1. 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 situations.
2. 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 patrons.

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 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. Such 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 web sites or attempt to otherwise disrupt, interfere with, damage, or illicitly access web sites and electronic data or systems.
3. Patrons shall not engage in any illegal activities, or transmit threatening, obscene or harassing materials.

Minors may not access materials deemed “harmful to minors” under G.L. c. 272, § 28 or otherwise.

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.

Adopted by the Board of Library Trustees June 3, 1997. Revised and adopted November 5, 2002. Revised and adopted September 3, 2013. Revised and adopted March 6, 2018.