Internet Use

Reference: Adopted by the Library Board: October 27, 2009
Revised and adopted by the Library Board: November 17, 2026

The Cloquet Public Library provides access to the Internet as one means of fulfilling its mission to stimulate imagination and support children's literacy.

The Library's Internet stations are intended to provide access to valuable information resources. The library does not provide additional services such as technical support, e-mail accounts, or home page housing.

Patrons who access the Internet on library computers accept the Internet usage policy of the Arrowhead Library System, which is found on the System's home page (https://www.alslib.info/about-us/policies/).

Important notes:

- The library cannot guarantee that wi-fi is always available. Interruptions of service can be caused by weather, equipment trouble, or work on the tower.

- The library allows people to use the computer for one hour, and renew for another hour, if no one is waiting to use the computer. The computers contain software that times out when the first hour is up. The screen displays how much time is left. Once the time has expired, patrons will lose any information they have not saved.

- Individuals using library on-line resources should not knowingly access–and must not display– materials deemed illegal by the State of Minnesota on library monitors. If an individual accesses a site they deem offensive and then cannot exit the site, they should turn off the monitor only and ask a staff member to shut down and reboot the computer.

The Cloquet Public Library:

- provides Internet access equally to all users. The electronic resources available through the library's Internet computers are neither selected nor monitored by staff.

- requires that the general rules for conduct within the library also pertain to the use of on-line resources. These Rules of Conduct are approved by the Board of Directors of the library.

- does not accept responsibility for content found on the Internet. The Library cannot control accuracy, suitability for the particular patron, or acceptability under community standards.

- affirms the right and responsibility of parents to provide guidance for their own children's use of library materials and resources, including the Internet, and encourages parents to share with their children the rules for online safety. (Ask library staff for information on safe web sites.) Individuals must take responsibility for monitoring the quality of materials accessed through Internet computers.

- may host subscription and selected free databases on the library's catalog. These resources will be available from the Library's catalog workstations, the library's Internet Access workstations, and from home computers through the library's home page. Access will be cleared by entry of a valid library card number and PIN.

- provides access to filtered search engines, which may restrict access to sites that could be deemed objectionable, but may also limit access to sites that have legitimate research value. (Adults doing bona fide research may request that filters be disabled.)

- regulates the use of electronic resources within the building in conformity with the laws of the State of Minnesota and in keeping with the Library's Rules of Conduct.

- reserves the right to terminate a user's access to the Internet for failing to comply with the Cloquet Library's rules of use. Internet users whose access has been terminated or prohibited may request, in writing, a hearing before the Library Board of Directors.

WIFI

WIFI (wireless) access provided by the Library is unsecured. Patrons are responsible for having the proper hardware, software, and network settings on their wireless device to connect to the Library-provided WIFI and must provide their own anti-virus, firewall, privacy, and encryption or other security protection on their personal computers. Library staff will not provide technical assistance and will not configure personal computer equipment.

The Library is not responsible for any theft, loss, damage, or misuse of patrons' personal notebooks, laptops, or other mobile devices.

Rules of Use

- Only those 18 or older may use the rooms. Generally only two people may be in the computer room at a time, but special permission may be given by the library director if more than two people need to be in the room.

- The computer rooms may be reserved for one-hour blocks of time; unreserved time is available on a first-come, first-served basis. There is a one-hour time limit on use of computers. (Library staff may extend the time limit by one hour if no one is waiting for the room.)

- No Internet access will be given to individuals who have fines of $10.00 or more, outstanding overdue materials, or reported abuse of library equipment or the Internet.

- No programs may be downloaded to library computers unless approval is given by the library director.

- The Cloquet Public Library cannot guarantee that all Internet sites will be available at all times, as a site may not be accessible for any number of reasons.

- Hours of use:
  Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, 9:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.
  Friday, 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
  Saturday (during the school year), 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

- Users will be personally responsible for any materials ordered via the Internet, and will need a credit card to pay for the items.

- A charge of 20 cents per page will be made for black and white printing and 40 cents per page for color printing.

- Internet users may not use the library's computers to display obscene materials or child pornography (as determined by state and federal law); pirate software; degrade or disrupt equipment or system performance; gain unauthorized access to resources or entities; invade the privacy of individuals, violate copyright or licensing agreements; engage in any activity that is deliberately offensive or creates an intimidating or hostile environment; or for any illegal purpose.

In order to use the Internet, I agree to the following:
I understand that the library has no control over the resources found on the Internet. I have the responsibility of evaluating the materials I find.

- I understand that many items available on the Internet are not suitable for viewing by children. I will not view these materials if I am under 17 and will not share such sites with individuals under 17.

- I understand that I must not view materials in violation of the Laws of the State of Minnesota.

- I agree to remove a site from my screen if another library user asks me to because it is offensive to him/her.

- I will not act in a way that would be considered harassment by another library user or a staff member.

- I will maintain order and quiet at my workstation while using the computer. If I am sharing information on the screen with another individual, we will limit our conversation to very quiet exchanges.

- I understand that the computer will close down at the end of the one-hour time limit. Anything not saved prior to that time will be lost.

- I understand that the maximum time allowed for use of this computer is 2 hours per day (one hour initial use, with the possibility of a one-hour renewal).

- I understand that using a name or account number other than my own may lead to loss of all library privileges, and I may be trespassed from library grounds.