Use of Public Access Computers

Access to computers and the Internet are provided to serve the informational, educational, and recreational interests of our county residents and visitors. For this purpose, public access computers are available for use at all Madison County Public Library branches at no charge during regular library hours.

Use of the Internet is a part of the library card registration procedures and is governed by the Library's *Internet Acceptable Use Policy*.

A system-wide maximum of two hours' use per person per day is enforced if there are other patrons waiting to use the computers. If no one is waiting, there are no limits on the amount of time for use of the Library's public computers.

No more than two people may use one workstation unless by special arrangement.

The Library is not responsible for any information a patron leaves on a public computer. The Library strongly encourages patrons who use public computers to delete sensitive material and files as well as take the extra precaution to "empty the trash" or completely remove deleted files.

The Library is not responsible for crashes that lose saved or unsaved work. The Library assumes no responsibility for damage done to a patron's removable device through use of public access PCs. The Library makes every effort to prevent viruses but is not responsible if devices become infected.

Any use of library equipment for illegal purposes is prohibited. Users are expressly forbidden to copy library-owned commercial software. The library will make every effort to abide by copyright restrictions in the use of software. Patrons are not to download software, stream media, or make any other use of online content that violates current copyright laws. Patrons violating any copyright law can lose their computer privileges.

Some branches have computer programs for use by children ages 3-12. Children under 18 must have parent's permission before they can access and use the internet. This is often documented in the child's Juvenile library account. Children accompanied by an adult are considered to have received permission from their caregiver if they are using a computer. Children accompanying adults who are using the computers should not be left unattended.

Library staff members are available to assist patrons of all ages with information literacy. One-on-one technology tutoring is available. See your librarian for more information.

Patrons should report any computer problems to the Library staff. They should not attempt to repair or correct a technical issue on their own.

Approved by Library Board of Trustees – September 2025

Use of the Internet

To fulfill its goal of meeting the informational, educational, and recreational interests of our county residents and visitors, the Madison County Public Libraries (the Library) provides free access to the Internet in accordance with the Library's mission.

Library procedures for accessing the internet must be followed, and use will be managed in a manner consistent with the Library's *Code of Conduct*.

The Library makes no guarantees, implied or otherwise, regarding the factual reliability of any website or any content posted on the Internet. Users are encouraged to ask a librarian to assist in determining the quality, authority, or validity of information retrieved. The Library cannot control access to online content or protect patrons from online content they may find offensive.

Parents or legal guardians of children under age 18 must accept responsibility for their children's computer and internet use. The Library recommends providing parental permission for internet access by completing a Juvenile library card application in person at the Library. In granting permission for the child's use of the Library's Internet connection by application or approved use, the parent or guardian accepts full responsibility for the child's behavior and experiences while using the Madison County Public Library's computers.

All patrons are required to agree to the following *Internet Acceptable Use Policy* before using the Internet at the Library. Use of the internet via the Library's network constitutes agreement to these policies. The Library reserves the right to review this policy and make changes as necessary.

Use of Wireless Network

The Library offers free wireless access (WiFi) at all locations and through hot spot lending for Library patrons to use with their own personal notebooks, laptops, and other mobile devices. This wireless network is unsecured and filtered to comply with Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) regulations on and off campus. A patron's use of this service is also governed by the Library's *Internet Acceptable Use Policy*.

Due to the proliferation of Wi-Fi networks, library users may also be able to access other Wi-Fi networks within the branch that are not provided by the Library. The use of these non-library wireless networks within the Library's facilities is also governed by the Library's *Internet Acceptable Use Policy*.

As with most public wireless networks, the Library's wireless connection is not secure. There can be untrusted parties between you and anybody with whom you communicate, and any information being transmitted could potentially be intercepted by another wireless user. Cautious and informed wireless users should choose not to transmit personal

information while using any unsecured wireless network. Please take appropriate precautions when using this service.

All wireless access users should have up-to-date virus protection on their laptop computers or wireless devices. The Library is not responsible for any patron information that is compromised, nor is the Library responsible for any damage caused to your hardware or software due to electric surges, security issues, or consequences caused by viruses or hacking.

All users are expected to use the Library's wireless access in a legal and responsible manner, consistent with the educational, recreational, and informational purposes for which it is provided.

Use of the Library's wireless network is entirely at the risk of the user. The Library disclaims all liability for loss of confidential information or damage resulting from that loss.

Internet Acceptable Use Policy

Computer and internet users are required to use Library computers and the internet for lawful purposes in a responsible manner, consistent with the educational, recreational, and informational purposes for which they are provided and to follow all rules concerning computer access and time.

The Madison County Public Libraries receive federal funding to assist with providing internet access. As a result, the Library is compliant with the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA), a federal law, that requires the installation of technology protection measures (TPM or "filters") on its computers and wireless access points whether they are used on or off campus. This filter is designed to

- prevent access by minors to inappropriate or harmful matter on the internet,
- provide for the safety and security of minors using direct electronic communications,
- prevent unauthorized disclosure, use, and dissemination of personal information regarding minors, and
- prevent unauthorized access, including so-called “hacking,” and other unlawful activities by minors online.

The Library’s goal is to strike the best balance possible between the public’s need for information and the community’s expectation that minors will be protected. It should be noted that filtering software can be flawed. In some instances, it may block access to constitutionally protected materials on the internet or fail to block access to material that is obscene or harmful. Please see a librarian if you believe that a site has been filtered in error or should be filtered.

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Staff presence and the use of filtering software are not a substitute for parental supervision of a minor accessing the internet. The Library urges parents and guardians to supervise their children's Internet sessions. It is not the responsibility of Library staff to act in this supervisory role.

The Madison County Public Library Internet Use Policy prohibits the following:

- Sending or displaying obscene or disruptive messages, files, or images.
- Engaging in the harassment, slander, or libel of another person via the Internet.
- Unauthorized disclosure, use, or dissemination of personal information.
- Misrepresenting oneself by access code, password or signature.
- Violating copyright laws or software license restrictions.
- Installing software or altering software configurations.
- Intentionally damaging computer equipment or software.
- Gaining unauthorized access to a network or computer system ("hacking").
- Engaging in activities that are disruptive to other patrons.
- Using library computers for any activity deemed unlawful or prohibited by North Carolina or federal law.

Library computer and internet users waive their right to any claim against the Library, its employees, trustees, and agents arising from use of the Internet.

Failure to comply with this agreement may result in loss of computer privileges. Use that is illegal may result in criminal prosecution.

Approved by Library Board of Trustees – September 2025