



## **Internet Access and Wireless Use Policy**

Adopted May 1, 1999; Revised January 27, 2015; Revised October 2019

Adopted by the North Richland Hills Library Board October 21, 2019

The North Richland Hills Library offers free internet access to the public. The internet enables the Library to provide information beyond the confines of its own collection to enhance research, learning, and enjoyment opportunities for the North Richland Hills community.

### **Public Computer Use**

Patrons are welcome to use the Library's computers any time the Library is open. There is no charge to access a computer, but established fees apply when patrons print from a computer. Public computer access requires a North Richland Hills Library card or a guest pass.

Internet access at the Library is self-guided. Staff at service desks will help patrons who need assistance to get online and provide some basic guidance on how to locate the information the patron needs. Staff cannot assist patrons with anything that allows a staff member access to a patron's private or confidential information, such as logins, passwords, or legal documents.

The vast amount of material available on the internet cannot be monitored or controlled by the North Richland Hills Library. The Library's computers employ filtering software that limits the likelihood of patrons accessing information that is commonly deemed offensive. No filter is 100% effective, and the Library is not responsible should these protections prove ineffective or provide personally offensive information. Patrons must accept responsibility for determining the suitability of content for themselves or their children.

Patrons are reminded that the Library is a public place where all are welcome. Patrons must be considerate of others and avoid downloading or displaying information or images in violation of Texas Law PC 43.24(b): Sale Distribution or Display of Harmful Material to a Minor, which states:

(b) A person commits an offense if, knowing that the material is harmful:

(1) and knowing the person is a minor, he sells, distributes, exhibits, or possesses for sale, distribution, or exhibition to a minor harmful material;

(2) he displays harmful material and is reckless about whether a minor is present who will be offended or alarmed by the display; or

(3) he hires, employs, or uses a minor to do or accomplish or assist in doing or accomplishing any of the acts prohibited in Subsection (b)(1) or (b)(2).

### Responsibilities of Patrons:

**Supervising Children's Use:** Any restriction of a child's access to the internet is the responsibility of the child's parent or guardian. The Library does not have either the right or the responsibility to act *in loco parentis*.

**File Storage:** Patrons are responsible for saving their files to external devices or cloud-based storage. Files saved on Library computers are deleted upon logging out.

**Choosing and Evaluating Information Sources:** Sources on the internet do not always provide accurate, complete, or current information. Patrons should exercise judgment in evaluating the validity of information.

Library Rules Governing Internet Use:

- Access is on a first-come-first-served basis. Time limits may be set based on usage patterns.
- Patrons may not change the settings of the Library's computer equipment and software, or add to, delete, or modify the installed software.
- Patrons must use headphones or earbuds for all audio.
- Patrons may not use the Library's computers to make unauthorized entry to any other computer, or to disrupt or interfere with the operation of other computer network patrons, services, or equipment.
- Patrons may not represent themselves as another person or use the internet to transmit obscene, threatening, or harassing materials.
- Patrons must respect the legal protections to data and software provided by copyright and license law.

**The Library reserves the right to take appropriate action to ensure compliance with these rules including, but not limited to, loss of Library privileges and legal prosecution.**

**Wireless Use**

The Library provides free, unfiltered wireless access as a public service. By choosing to use this service, a patron agrees to abide by the Library's Internet Access and Wireless Use Policy.

The Library's wireless network is not secure, but it does require authentication. Patrons are responsible for their devices' anti-virus and security software. The Library is not responsible for any loss of data, theft, or damage to personal equipment or software.

Due to the diversity of mobile computing equipment available, Library staff may provide "how to" assistance for patrons to successfully use Library-supported resources but is not permitted to configure or troubleshoot a patron's wireless device.