

Section 7.01 Use of Computers and Technology on Library property

The Homewood Public Library makes computers, laptops and other handheld devices available to library patrons for the purpose of completing research, facilitating networking, producing documents and presentations and participating in recreational online activities.

In the following policy statement the use of the term “device” means computer, laptop, tablet or other multimedia device.

- Devices may not be used for illegal activity, to access illegal materials or to access materials that would be considered obscene by local standards.
- Installing, downloading or modifying software on Library devices is prohibited.
- Users must respect copyright laws and licensing agreements.
- Users may not make any attempt to gain unauthorized access to restricted files or networks.
- Users who damage or modify Library devices will be responsible for replacement costs.
- Users must respect the privacy of other users and refrain from attempting to view or listen to material being used by others.
- Spamming is prohibited.
- Fees for the use of Library devices are determined by the Board of Trustees and posted in a public area.
- The Library reserves the right to apply restrictions to the use of devices as outlined in Library procedures.

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Section 7.02 Internet Use

Patrons accessing the Internet while using a Library device or a personally owned device must adhere to the Library’s Internet Use Policy.

- The Internet allows access to ideas, information and commentary from around the globe, but it is an unregulated medium. As such, while it offers access to a wealth of material that is personally, professionally and culturally enriching to individuals of all ages, it also enables access to some material that may be offensive, disturbing and/or illegal, inaccurate or incomplete. Users are encouraged to be good information consumers by evaluating the validity of information accessed via the Internet.
- The Library, unlike schools, does not serve in *loco parentis* (in place of a parent). Staff cannot act in the place of parents in providing constant care and supervision of children as they explore the Internet. The responsibility for what minors read or view on the Internet rests with parents or legal guardians. The Library’s Internet access is unfiltered. The staff of the Library

maintains a homepage with recommended links in order to facilitate use of the Internet. Users should recognize that the Library is not responsible for changes to the content of linked sites, or for the content of sources accessed through subsequent links.

- Since the Library is a public area that is shared by users of all ages, backgrounds and sensibilities, users are asked to consider this when accessing potentially controversial information and images. Library staff reserves the right to ask users to discontinue the display of information and images that may cause a disruption.

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Section 7.03 Internet Privacy

The Library avoids collecting or maintaining records that could compromise the privacy of patrons. Nevertheless, Internet users must also exercise caution when using the Internet to avoid unauthorized disclosure, use and dissemination of personal identification information.

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Section 7.04 Internet Access

The Library upholds and affirms the right of each individual to have access to constitutionally protected material. The Library also affirms the right and responsibility of parents to determine and monitor their own children's use of library materials and resources. Library staff is available to provide assistance and to help identify appropriate sites.

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