

The City of Wilmer
E.M. Gilliam Memorial Public Library
Computer and Internet Access Policy

Introduction

The library is dedicated to fulfilling the informational, educational, and recreational needs of the ethnically and generationally diverse Wilmer community. The library accepts the role of promoting services, programs, and technologies to best meet the needs of the citizens. It is within this context that the Library offers access to the Internet. The library's goal is to enhance its existing collection in size and depth and, as a public access agency, give opportunity to any citizen who wishes to use the Internet.

The Internet, as an information resource, enables the library to provide information beyond the confines of its own collection. It allows access to ideas, information, and commentary from around the globe. It is an unregulated medium. 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 inaccurate, misleading, offensive, disturbing, and/or illegal.

Given the vast array of web resources, the library's staff is unable to provide in-depth training regarding any particular web site or advanced training in the use of the computer workstations. Library staff may offer web-searching strategies and answer specific questions regarding the searching of the TexShare databases funded by the City of Wilmer.

While the library will make every effort to ensure that the use of the Internet is consistent with its Mission Statement, parents and guardians should work closely with their children in selecting material that is consistent with personal and family values and boundaries. Parents or guardians, not the library staff, are responsible for the Internet information selected and/or accessed by their children. Within the context of this policy, parents or guardians-and only parents and guardians-may restrict their own children- and only their own children-from access to Internet resources accessible through the library.

The Gilliam Library cannot fully protect its users from information they may find offensive. Within the limits imposed by current technology, the library will take reasonable steps to ensure that obscene and possibly illegal materials are not made available to the public at the library. The library will attempt to filter out full nudity, partial nudity, gross depiction, and sexual activity. However, the library cannot completely control or monitor the vast amount of material accessible from computers via the Internet. Users must accept responsibility for information displayed or printed during their sessions.

The library expressly disclaims any liability or responsibility arising from access to or use of information obtained through its electronic information systems or any consequences thereof.

Code of Conduct continued

1. Patrons must have an E.M. Gilliam Memorial Public Library card and be in good standing (i.e., no overdue materials, fines, etc.) in order to use the computers. Patrons must log on using their own library card or a guest pass number and promptly give up the computer when your time has elapsed.

2. Patrons must sign the Internet Use portion of the library card application, acknowledging that they have read and understand these guidelines. Youth under 15 years of age will be required to have parental or guardian permission to access the internet and/or to be seated at an Internet workstation.
3. Patrons will have one hour on the computer, unless the computer is designated otherwise. This is for education, games, Internet usage, or e-mail. NO CHAT LINES! There will be NO EXCEPTIONS! A few minutes extra can be given only if a patron is completing an application and no one is waiting for the computer.
4. No more than two users will be allowed at each computer workstation. Students lose this privilege if do are too loud and disturb others.
5. Patrons age 8 or older must have a working knowledge of computers. Children under the age of 8 MUST be assisted by an adult, other than a library staff member, at all times.
6. A printer is available. Please ask library staff for details regarding any fees associated with printing.
7. Patrons may use their own diskettes or flash drives to download materials. Although virus protection software is loaded on the computer workstations, materials downloaded from the Internet may contain undetected viruses. Patrons need to have virus-checking software on their own computers. The library or its staff is not responsible for damage to a patron's disk, flash drive, or computer, or for any loss of data, damage, or liability that may occur from his or her use of the library's computer.
8. Computer times are as follows. Monday – Friday: Adults may use the computer from 9:00 am – 3:00 pm, Children may use the computer from 3:00 pm – 5:45 pm (Children must alternate days). Thursday evenings: from 6:00 pm – 7:45 pm, it is first come first serve. Saturday: from 10:00 am – 1:45 pm, is first come first serve. Patrons may call the library to reserve a computer time.

Unacceptable Workstation Uses

The Library Director or her designee may revoke Internet privileges upon discovery that a patron has violated our policy.

Patrons may lose privileges if they engage in the following behaviors:

1. Make any attempt to damage or alter computer equipment and software.
2. Intentionally circumvent filtering and security/control software.
3. Intentionally download any information or software onto the hard drive.
4. Use personal software programs on the computer workstations.
5. Use computer workstations to display or disseminate sexually explicit or sexually suggestive (obscene/pornographic) materials.
6. Violate the copyright laws, any other U.S. or state laws, or software licensing agreements while using library workstations. Attempts to break the code, illegally copy software, or damage the files in any way will result in prosecution as allowed by City Ordinance or contractual law with the software vendors.
7. Engage in any activity, which is deliberately and maliciously offensive, libelous, or slanderous and/or otherwise illegal.
8. Engage on a chat line while utilizing a computer workstation.

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