

2025 Library INTERNET POLICY

Effective Date: May 17, 2001. Amended: July 1, 2007. Amended: June 14, 2010.
Renewed: May 13, 2013; Amended: June 6, 2016, Amended May 8, 2019, Amended
March 10, 2021, March 31, 2022. Amended May 15, 2025

1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

“The mission of The San Juan County Library System is to inspire lifelong learning, advance knowledge, **encourage dialogue**, and strengthen our communities.”

Because of strong community interest in having access to the Internet at the libraries, the San Juan County Library Board supports the availability of this resource to residents and visitors who come to our area. Patrons may access the Internet, but are expected to uphold our rules and policies.

Each library branch that is a part of the San Juan County Library system takes measures to restrict minors from accessing and from being exposed to electronic material that may be child pornography, obscene, or otherwise harmful to minors. These measures are based on applicable legal parameters as outlined under “CONDITIONS AND TERMS OF INTERNET USE IN THE LIBRARY” and are subject to limits of available technology and administrative capacity.

No branch of the San Juan County Library system has direct control over the information accessed through the Internet. Therefore, each individual is responsible for the content of the searches he or she conducts, and parents are responsible for the use of the Internet by their minor children.

The Library makes no guarantee, expressed or implied, for the timeliness, accuracy or usefulness of information accessed from the Internet, or that the Internet service will be available on an uninterrupted basis.

The Library upholds and affirms the right of each individual to have access to constitutionally protected materials.

2. CONDITIONS AND TERMS OF INTERNET USE IN THE LIBRARY:

To ensure that the use of the Internet in the Library is consistent with the mission of the San Juan County Library, and in compliance with the Children’s Internet Protective Act (CIPA), with Administrative Rule 458-2, Public Library Online Access for Eligibility to Receive Public Funds, and with amended UCA 9-7-215 and 9-7-216, the following conditions shall apply:

- a. Designated Internet stations will be located where they can be monitored by Library staff for user assistance, equipment security, and enforcement of these conditions.

b. Patrons under 18 years of age must have signed permission from their parent or legal guardian to access the Internet. Parents/legal guardians must come to the Library to sign the form.

c. In compliance with existing legal requirements, there is a technology protection measure (also commonly known as a filter) on the Library computers. The law requires libraries to use the technology protection measure to block access by minors to materials that might be harmful to them, as defined by said statute. The law also requires libraries to use the technology protection measure to block access by any patron or staff member, regardless of age, to child pornography and to materials defined by statute as harmful or obscene.

d. The Library uses a filtering system recommended by the Utah State Library. This will block many web sites containing graphic, extreme, or obscene materials, including materials on sex, drugs, violence, gambling, terrorism, and hate language. However, this should not give the patron a false sense of security. He/she may still come across information that is illegal or that he/she believes is inappropriate, offensive, or objectionable. In this event, it is his/her responsibility to leave the offending website immediately.

e. The filtering system may experience problems. Upgrades, equipment failure, software issues, and human and other errors can contribute to some websites not being blocked correctly. It is requested that patrons report any failure of the filtering system to the Library staff immediately.

f. This technology protection measure is mandatory on all Library patron computers connected to the Internet. The filter will be turned off upon request for patrons 18 years of age or older without question. All rules—especially those pertaining to materials harmful to minors—must still be followed.

g. Internet stations will be available on a first come, first served basis, or by appointment.

h. Computer use will be limited to sixty (60) minutes when others are waiting. If, at the end of the first 60 minutes, no one is waiting for a computer, a patron may use it for additional time. Patrons requiring additional time may request such from the librarian. **The librarian reserves the right to ask a patron to leave a computer if they are being noisy or disruptive. Children under the age of 18 will be limited to 60 minutes per day of “gaming” on library computers.**

i. When a Library staff member informs a patron that his time is up, he/she must leave the computer promptly so the next patron can use the computer. Failure to respond to a librarian’s request can result in the suspension of computer privileges.

j. Only one person per computer is allowed unless arrangements are made with the librarian. ~~for educational or instructional purposes.~~

k. Infants and toddlers are not allowed ~~around the~~ at a computer station unless in a restraining device such as a carrier or stroller. This requirement is for the child's safety and the safety of the equipment. Children who are fussing and/or are not being controlled should be taken out of the library to avoid disturbing other patrons.

l. The following uses of the Internet ARE NOT PERMITTED. Any of these activities will result in permanent revocation of Internet privileges and may be subject to criminal prosecution:

1. Transmitting, uploading, downloading or otherwise accessing any pornographic, obscene, or sexually explicit materials or other materials deemed harmful to minors as defined by said statute.
2. Transmitting, uploading, downloading or otherwise accessing files or information dangerous to the integrity of the Library's network. Any malicious or intentional misuse, including but not limited to, harassment, distribution of computer viruses or worms, or transmitting data that is prohibited by Federal, State, or Local laws.
3. Vandalizing or altering the computer hardware and/or software of this Library's computers or any other computer system accessed through the Internet.
4. Unauthorized access to any of the San Juan County Library computer systems equipment, files, software, data, or information resources, including the deleting of files, modifying or reconfiguring system software facilities or subverting any restrictions already in place on the Library's network and computer systems.
5. Installing personal software or attaching personal computer equipment or programs to existing Library equipment.
6. Detachment of any hardware owned or provided by the Library, including headphones.

m. In addition to the above restrictions, the following general restrictions shall also apply:

1. Patrons may not use Library computers for any illegal or criminal purpose.
2. Patrons may not violate copyright laws or software licensing agreements (such as making unauthorized copies of software) in their use of Library computers.
3. Patrons may not install or download any software.
4. Patrons may not engage in any activity that is deliberately and maliciously disruptive, libelous, or slanderous.
5. Patrons may not consume large amounts of system resources.
6. The patron is liable for damage done to computers, any computer equipment, or software that is property of the Library.
7. Patrons may not save any files to a Library computer. Any saved files or programs will be erased at the end of each business day. Patrons may save to a personal external device or send files as attachments to their own email account.

n. Any patron who has materials overdue more than 3 weeks may lose computer privileges until materials are returned or paid for.

o. There will be a charge for printer use. The charge will be based on the number and type of pages printed by the patron. Prices are to be posted in every library. A page is **one side** of an 8.5" X 11" sheet of paper.

p. Patrons who fail to comply with any of the above conditions may lose their computer privileges.

3. ENFORCEMENT GUIDELINES AND COMPLAINTS:

Administrative procedures and guidelines for staff to follow in enforcing this policy are listed within this policy in Section 2. Procedures to handle complaints about the policy, its enforcement, and observed patron behavior are listed below:

- a. Any patron who wishes to read the statutes on which this policy is based may request to see copies of them on the library website.
- b. This policy will be posted on the library website, where it is effective immediately. Rules for enforcing the policy are listed within the policy.
- c. Any patrons who have complaints about this policy or its enforcement may submit those complaints in writing, outlined in detail, to the Library Director or to the Chair of the Library Board.
- d. Patrons may submit their written complaint in person to the Library Board at the next regular Board meeting by requesting of the Librarian or the Board Chair that the complaint be included as an item on the next agenda.
- e. If applicable, the patron may be asked to provide the website address and materials being viewed when privileges were suspended. The decision of the Board will be final.

This Internet policy was amended and re-adopted May 15, 2025 in an open meeting of the San Juan Library Board.

This policy has been revised, reviewed and adopted by the San Juan County Library and Board of Trustees on May 15, 2025

X _____

Signature of Board Chairperson: