



CLINTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

306 8th Avenue South, Clinton, IA 52732
563-242-8441
www.clintonpubliclibrary.us

Internet Access Policy

The Clinton Public Library (CPL) endeavors to develop collections, resources, and services that meet the cultural, informational, recreational, and educational needs of the community. It is within this context that the library offers public access to the Internet. The following guidelines describe the terms of access to the Internet through computers provided on premises at CPL or through its wireless connections and constitute official institutional policy on this matter.

CPL makes Internet resources accessible to all patrons. The staff of CPL helps patrons navigate, identify, and access resources on the Internet. The staff reviews and recommends good sources of information on the Internet and develops or subscribes to special tools in order to assist customers in using the Internet. CPL staff members also conduct classes for adults and children to instruct them in the effective and safe use of the Internet. The library's goal is to make the public computers at all CPL locations available to as many patrons as possible. To accomplish this, CPL controls the amount of time any patron can use the public computers on a given day (90 minutes per day per card holder) and users of the library's wireless network are required to abide by the terms of use.

CPL does not monitor and has no control over the information available through the Internet and cannot be held responsible for its content. The Internet is a global entity with a highly diverse user population and library patrons use it at their own discretion and risk. Individual patron access to the Internet through CPL computers or wireless connections is unsupervised and unmonitored by CPL staff.



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All Internet resources accessible through library channels are provided equally to all adult (age 18 and older) library users. Internet access for patrons under 14 must be authorized in writing by a parent or guardian; this corresponds to library policy for patrons under 14 obtaining a library card. Parents and guardians - neither the library nor its staff - are responsible for the Internet information selected and/or accessed by their children. Only parents and guardians may restrict their children - and only their children - from access to Internet resources accessible through library channels. Parents are advised to supervise their children's Internet sessions.

As a participant in the Universal Service discount program (commonly known as E-Rate), funded as part of the Library Services and Technology Act and Title III of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, CPL complies with federal law (Children's Internet Protection Act and Neighborhood Internet Protection Act) mandating the use of filtering software in public libraries. Internet filters are software programs that block access to content that is considered inappropriate for viewing in a public place. It employs filtering software to protect against the visual depiction of pornography, obscenity, and child pornography. Per the previously stated statutes, other types of content subject to filtering include:

- Matter on the Internet that is inappropriate for minors.
- Unsafe or unsecure direct communication forums including email and chat rooms.
- Unauthorized websites or applications used for "hacking" and other unlawful activities.
- Unauthorized attempts to disclose, use, and disseminate personal
- information about minors or any other protected group.
- Any web-based software or programs that may be harmful to the CPL network or computer equipment.



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CPL will employ filtering measures on any publicly accessible computer that may display or disseminate harmful content to minors.

No filtering software is totally accurate. Filters may falsely block material that is appropriate in a public library setting or they may fail to block access to illegal or objectionable material. Patrons may submit a Request for Reconsideration of a Website to block or unblock a specific site. CPL will respond to questions and concerns regarding the filter's accuracy by communicating with the filtering software vendor towards improving its product.

CPL follows state and federal law regarding privacy of library users' records and information. It is the library's usual practice to erase all customer use records, except those essential for library business operations. The library will release records, including those relating to Internet usage, only as required by law. When a computer session is ended, all information about that session is ordinarily deleted. The library does not, as part of its regular practice, retrieve any information, including websites visited, passwords, credit card numbers, or any other information a patron has entered. At the end of the business day, all computer use and reservation records are normally erased.



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In order to insure a positive library experience for everyone the CPL requires that all patrons shall:

- Use computers only for lawful purposes.
- Refrain from viewing pornographic visual materials or content that by contemporary community standards would be considered obscene.
- Observe the established computer time limits.
- Respect the security of the network.
- Respect the configuration of computer equipment at the library. Downloading or installing nonstandard software programs is prohibited.
- Keep virus protection software up-to-date on personal laptops or other mobile devices using the Library's wireless Internet connection.

CPL believes that the reading and viewing activity of children is ultimately the responsibility of parents who guide and oversee their own children's development. CPL does not intrude on that relationship, except when mandated by law. Parents are encouraged to read and follow these tips for "Internet-wise" parents:

- Take time to learn about the Internet.
- Take individual or group Internet classes, which are always available to families.
- Explore cyberspace with your children.
- Provide clear guidelines - let your children know if there are subjects that are off limits.
- Learn how to evaluate the Internet - read books and magazines and take a class offered by the library.
- Teach your children safety rules for dealing with strangers online and appropriate ways to deal with online businesses.
- Ask a librarian - librarians have always been expert at selecting materials for children.



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Clinton Public Library WIFI

Public Wireless is available: Monday through Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Friday 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at 306 8th Avenue South. Public Wireless is also available at the Lyons Branch, 105 Main Avenue, Tuesday through Saturday 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The Library's wireless network is not secure. Information sent from or to your laptop can be captured by anyone else with a wireless device and the appropriate software, within three hundred feet.

Library staff is not able to provide technical assistance and no guarantee can be provided that you will be able to make a wireless connection. The Library assumes no responsibility for the safety of equipment or for laptop configurations, security, or data files resulting from connection to the Library's network. The laptop owner is responsible for setting up their equipment to access the CPL Wireless network. Library staff is not permitted to handle your laptop or peripheral equipment. Library staff is not allowed to configure patrons' laptops, nor can they provide more than general assistance in getting connected to the wireless network.

Policy Reviewed, Revised & Scheduled for review by the Clinton Public Library Board of Trustees

Adopted	Revised	Reviewed	Date of next review
	Dec. 9 1998	Sept. 2002	Dec. 2019
	Feb 2003	Feb. 2003	Dec. 2022
	Oct. 2003	Oct. 2003	
	April 2004	April 2004	
	May 2007	May 2008	
	May 2010	April 2010	
	July 2015	Jan.2020	