

COMPUTER & INTERNET USE POLICY

Dothan Houston County Library System (The Library) provides desktops, laptops, and tablets with networked Internet access (the network) for use by patrons inside the library. The following are the policies established by DHCLS for the use of its devices and network by all library users, including the use of the Library's Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) public wireless Internet connection (Wi-Fi). Patrons found to be in violation of any of these policies, may be asked to leave and/or be subject to having their sessions terminated without warning. Single or continued violations may result in the revocation of library privileges and/or criminal prosecution.

General Internet Disclaimer

The Internet allows users to connect to networks of resources outside the library and has no control over these resources, nor does the Library have complete knowledge of what is on the Internet. Information on the Internet may be reliable and current, or it may be inaccurate, out-of-date, or unavailable at times. Patrons access the Internet at their own discretion. Please be aware that some information found on the Internet may be of a mature nature and may be offensive to some users. Patrons are reminded that the Library is not responsible for content on the Internet and that the user determines which access points are reached.

1. In order to use Library devices and its network, patrons must have a DHCLS library card **IN GOOD STANDING**, or must purchase a guest pass at the Information Desk. Using the library card number of another patron, including a relative, to access the network is prohibited.
2. Patrons are permitted one visit to library computers per day, for a maximum of two hours. Sessions run for sixty minutes at a time; at the end of the first session, time may be extended for an additional sixty minutes if desired. This limit applies to all Library-owned computers, with the exception of the microfilm reader computer, which is designated for genealogy and local history research only.
3. The following uses of library devices and the network are prohibited:
 - a. Viewing and displaying of obscene materials (prohibited by state and local law). *Please see Code of Alabama ordinances 13A-12-200.3 and/or 13A-12-191 of the Code of Alabama for further information.*
 - b. "Cracking", "hacking", or otherwise attempting to obtain unauthorized access to any computer system or network.
 - c. Illegal or criminal activity/purpose.
 - d. Obstruction of another patron's ability to use library resources. *Please see the Library's Code of Conduct policy.*
 - e. Deliberate crashing or modification of the setup or configuration of the library network/system, including introducing viruses.
 - f. Using exceedingly high bandwidth as to interfere with the overall functioning of the network.
4. In compliance with Federal Law, the Library subscribes to an Internet content filtering service, which has been installed on the network. This filtering service can be turned off at the request of any patron to view blocked content should it be deemed appropriate based on the guidelines stated in this policy and applicable law.
5. Copies of information obtained from the Internet may be subject to Copyright Law. Patrons assume responsibility for any legal action which might arise from their use of the network and violation of Copyright.
6. Patrons listening to audio content through the Library's network must use headphones as not to disturb others.
7. All Library devices reset to a default state and all personal data and patron work performed **WILL BE DELETED** at the end of each 60 minute session. It is **HIGHLY RECOMMENDED** that all work performed, along with any personal data be saved to an external storage method (e.g. disk, USB drive, email, Google Drive, Dropbox, etc.) before each session concludes.
8. The Library is not responsible for any loss of patron personal data, damage, or liability that may occur from a patron's use of the library's devices and network.
9. Staff will assist patrons' computer use tasks only as time, privacy concerns, expertise, and knowledge permits.
10. Food is not permitted near Library computers. Covered drinks are permitted.

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