

Internet Policy

The South St. Paul Public Library provides access to the Internet as an information resource to address educational, vocational, cultural and recreational needs. The Internet is a global electronic network without local, state or federal control over its contents. The Internet offers access to material beyond traditional collections and other electronic resources. The Internet also contains inaccurate and controversial material.

Internet use in the library means using the library's network to access the Internet either on library workstations or through a wireless connection.

The South St. Paul Public Library meets the federal requirements for filtering the Internet as mandated by the Children's Internet Protection Act or CIPA (Pub.L.106-554). Our Internet policy along with filtering will be used together to make Internet use at the South St. Paul Public Library as safe and enjoyable as possible for users of all ages. As required by CIPA, users 17 or older may request staff to unblock an Internet site that meets acceptable criteria as noted below.

South St. Paul Public Library also expects its users to use the Internet responsibly and to respect the rights of others. Those who fail to do so risk losing library Internet privileges. When using the library Internet access, it is not acceptable to

- violate federal, state or local laws and regulations, including those governing obscenity, child pornography, and materials harmful to minors (including but not limited to Minnesota Statutes Sections 617.241 and 617.291 through 617.294; and Section 134.5, and Pub.L.106-554.
- violate copyright laws or database license agreements
- display or print graphics or text that is obscene, child pornography, or harmful to minors
- engage in any activity that is deliberately offensive or creates an intimidating, disruptive or hostile environment for library users or library staff
- invade the privacy of individuals
- degrade, alter or disrupt equipment or system performance
- download or permanently save to the hard drive (Downloads are automatically erased at the end of each user session.)
- plug in non-library devices except USB storage devices that do not require software or driver installation (acceptable devices include USB storage devices, MP3 players and cameras; unacceptable devices would be printers, scanners, keyboards, USB storage devices or any other device requiring software or driver installation)
- vandalize the data of any other user
- gain unauthorized access to resources or entities
- create and/or distribute computer viruses over the Internet
- access the Internet for illegal purposes

Users access library computers and associated software at their own risk. The South St. Paul Public Library Board, the City of South St. Paul, and its employees assume no responsibility for damages of any type arising from patron use of the Internet through the library's network. Users acknowledge that the library cannot protect the privacy of data that is transmitted to third parties via the Internet. The library also cannot assure that data or files downloaded by users are virus-free.

Library staff reserves the right to limit the number of people at a single computer. The staff will provide assistance as time permits in locating information for users on the Internet.

As with all materials in the Library, responsibility for a child's use of the Internet rests with the parent or guardian. Parents are encouraged to work with their children to develop rules for the use of the Internet, including rules for the safety of minors when using electronic mail, chat rooms, and other forms of electronic communications.

Consequences of violation of this Internet policy:

1. Users will be asked to discontinue the activity.
2. If they continue, they will be asked to leave the library facility.
3. If they refuse to leave, they will be considered trespassers and the police will be called to remove them.
4. If the activity is thought to be illegal as defined by law (above), police will be called to deal with the user.

Adopted by the South St. Paul Public Library Board, November 13, 2006
Revised September 11, 2017

Internet Disclaimer Statement

The Internet is a global electronic network; there is no governmental control of its users or content. Resources available over the Internet may contain controversial material. Parents of minor children must assume responsibility for their children's use of the Internet resources through the library's connection. Information links often change rapidly and are unpredictable and response times will vary in speed. Not all sources on the Internet provide accurate, complete or current information. Filtering mandated by CIPA cannot block every potential harmful or offensive Internet site at every moment.

Links are provided for the convenience of the users of our site. However, the content of other Internet sites can change quickly, and the South St. Paul Library makes no representations concerning the content of those sites. The inclusion of a link does not constitute an endorsement, warranty or guarantee of the information, products or services, if any, described or offered at these other Internet sites.

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Wireless Internet Access

Wi-Fi (high-speed wireless Internet access) is available at the South St. Paul Public Library. This service is available at no cost to library users.

Since the library does not check out wireless cards or PDAs, users should bring their wireless-enabled laptop computer or other wireless device to the library and turn it on. When your device senses a signal, a message should appear on your screen indicating that a wireless network is available. Open your web browser and you will see the Public Use Internet Policy displayed. You will need to click on "I Agree" to begin using the library's wireless Internet.

Wireless users agree to abide by the library's Internet Policy which prohibits abusive or illegal activity while using the library's Internet service.

Your information is not protected while using wireless, unless you are connected to a web page that employs encryption (stores, banks, etc.) The library assumes no responsibility for the safety of equipment or for notebook/laptop computer or other wireless device configurations, security, or data files resulting from connection to the library's wireless access.

Users are responsible for knowing how to configure their own equipment. Check your manual if you can't get your wireless card to work. Since everyone's computer is different, the library cannot be responsible for any changes you make to your computer's configuration. No guarantee can be made that you will be able to make a wireless connection.

Printing is not available at this time. If you need to print, please save your work to disk or e-mail files to yourself, then login to a library Internet terminal and send print jobs to the printer.

Bring a fully charged battery. Public electric outlets may not be available. Users may not plug equipment into the library's computer network.