

Internet and Wireless Access Policy

JPAB Policy # 317

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Five-year Review Schedule: 12/2022

Santa Cruz Public Libraries (the Library) is committed to providing free and equitable access to information in all forms including the Internet. The Library Strategic Plan expressly ensures access to innovative tools and technologies necessary to find, evaluate, and use information and resources.

The Library makes every effort to provide high quality computing services to the community in a safe and welcoming environment for all patrons. Internet-enabled computers and unsecured wireless Internet access are available at all branches free of charge to all users.

The Library respects the responsibility of all parents and legal guardians to guide their own children's use of the library, its resources, and services. Because current technology intended to filter out inappropriate websites and images often blocks legitimate research sites and materials, SCPL does not utilize Internet filtering. However, the Library is CIPA (Child Internet Protection Act) compliant and does utilize geo-blocking as necessary to ensure the security of confidential patron information and the integrity of the Library's networks.

While the Library upholds the principles of the First Amendment, some materials are more suited to private viewing or are illegal. **Library equipment and networks may not be used for any illegal activity, or to access pornography or material that is obscene or harmful to minors** (18 USC 2252). Library users not abiding by these restrictions will be required to stop immediately. Offenses to this restriction will result in suspension from the Library.

The Library will not be responsible for any information (e.g. credit card) that is compromised, or for any damage caused to an individual's hardware or software due to electric surges, security issues, or consequences caused by viruses or hacking. All are expected to use the Library's Internet access in a legal and responsible manner. Violation of federal, state, or local laws, including the transmission or receiving of pornography or harmful material, fraud, or unlawful use of copyrighted material is prohibited.