



Public Technology and Internet Access Policy

JPAB Policy # 317

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Purpose

The Santa Cruz Public Libraries (the Library) strives to provide free and equitable access to information in all forms including the Internet. The Library's goal is to promote digital access to all by providing innovative tools and technologies for the community to find, evaluate, and use information and resources. Internet-enabled devices and unsecured wireless Internet access are available at all branches free of charge to all users pursuant to the terms of this Policy.

General Use and Internet Filtering

By using the Library's wireless Internet access or services, or Internet-enabled devices, patrons agree to comply with this policy and any and all applicable federal, state, or local laws.

The Library does not act *in loco parentis*, or in place of a parent or legal guardian, and the Library shall not be responsible for determining which Internet resources are appropriate for a particular minor. Supervision of a minor's internet use is the responsibility of a parent or legal guardian; the Library does not monitor children's use of the Internet or any information or materials obtained through such use.

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 purposes that violate copyright, trademark, patent, or other intellectual property rights;
- For any purposes that may damage or disrupt Library equipment, software, or data, including but not limited to in violation of California Penal Code, Section 502 et seq.;
- To access pornography or material that is obscene or harmful to minors, as defined or prohibited by applicable federal or state law, including but not limited to 18 USC 2252;
- For any other purposes that violate applicable federal or state laws.

Users who do not abide by these restrictions will be asked to stop immediately. Repeated or serious violations may result in suspension of Library privileges, in the Library's discretion.

The Library blocks network traffic from regions identified by the U.S. Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency engaging in malicious cyber activities to safeguard the security of confidential patron information and the integrity of the Library's networks. The Library does not utilize content-based internet filtering because current technology intended to block inappropriate materials can also block legitimate sites and materials.

Patron Data Privacy

More information on Patron Data Privacy, can be found online on the Library's [Confidentiality of Library Records and Patron Data Privacy Policy #303](#), which outlines how the Library collects, uses, and safeguards patron data. Furthermore, public computers and lendable devices are configured to clear personal data after a user logs off the public computers and lendable devices.

Liability Disclaimer

The Library's public computing and Wi-Fi services are provided strictly on an "as is" and as-available basis, and without warranties of any kind. The Library does not guarantee the availability, speed, security, compatibility, or uninterrupted operation of the Wi-Fi services. By utilizing the Library's network and equipment, users acknowledge and accept the following:

- **Assumption of All Risks of Use:** Users agree to assume all risks arising from, connected to, or resulting from the user's use of the Library's Internet-enabled devices and/or Wi-Fi services.
- **Content Accuracy:** The internet is an unregulated medium. The Library has no control over the information accessed through the internet and shall not be held responsible for its content, accuracy, or validity.
- **Service Reliability and Device Safety:** The Library is not responsible for interrupted service, dropped connections, interception of communications, or any loss of data, documents, or work resulting from network failures or automated session timeouts. Furthermore, the Library assumes no liability for damage caused to an individual's hardware or software due to electric surges, security issues, viruses, or hacking, or any other reason related to the user connecting to the Library's Wi-Fi.
- **Financial and Data Security:** Users conduct online financial transactions and banking at their own risk. The Library will not be responsible for compromised personal information (e.g., credit card data), nor is it liable for any financial issues or disputes arising from online purchases or transactions conducted on Library networks or when using the Library's devices or Wi-Fi services.