

Georgina Public Library Board Policy Manual

Policy Title: Public Access to Computers and Internet Services

Intent

The primary function of Georgina Public Library is to provide access to information within or outside our Library system. Basic to the Library's goal is the "Statement of the Intellectual Rights of the Individual" adopted by the Ontario Library Association (1985). The Internet enables library users to electronically access information resources beyond the confines of the Library's collections. It facilitates access to ideas, information, and commentary from around the world. The Library provides free unfiltered high speed Internet access on public computers, WiFi access, and mobile Internet hotspots as an extension of information services.

Regulations

1. A valid Georgina Public Library card is required; out-of-town visitors may request a guest pass.
2. Computer sessions are one half-hour long, with the option to extend if demand allows.
3. Extended computer sessions can be arranged in advance with Library staff for exceptional circumstances, such as online exams or completing lengthy official documents.
4. Mobile Internet hotspots may be borrowed for 21 days, with the option of 2 renewals. Patrons must be residents of Georgina and at least 16 years of age. A valid Georgina library card is required.
5. Not all sources on the Internet provide accurate, complete, or current information. The information consumer is responsible for evaluating the suitability of all retrieved information for his or her own purposes.
6. The Library does not monitor or have any control over or responsibility for the content of the information accessed remotely through the internet.
7. Library staff has no obligation to assist in the accessing of illegal/offensive materials and disclaims all responsibility for material accessed by patrons.
8. Public Internet activity must comply with Canada's Anti-Spam Legislation.
9. Parents /guardians are responsible for their children's access to the internet and are encouraged to be active partners with their children in their exploration of the Internet.
10. Children under 10 years of age must be accompanied by a parent/guardian when using the Library computers.

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11. Children under 16 years of age must have a permission form signed by their parent/guardian on file before being allowed unsupervised access to the Internet computers. Permission will be noted on minor patron records by the designation of “juvenile+” for children up to age 12, or “teen”, for children ages 13 to 15. Parents have the right to rescind computer access for their children under the age of 16, or to ask that their child aged 13-15 remain as a “juvenile+” until the age of 16.
12. Unsupervised access is open to all patrons 16 years of age and older. Patrons who are 16 or 17 years of age have a “teen” designation, changing to “adult” after their 18th birthday.
13. “Juvenile+” patrons have access to the children’s computers only. “Teen” and “adult” patrons have access to the adult computers only.
14. Use of library cards is non-transferable. Failure to comply will result in blocked access.
15. Visitors to Georgina are permitted to use computers/WiFi on a courtesy basis in accordance with other usage policies and restrictions.
16. Patrons are reminded that they are using a public service in a public place. Inappropriate use of the Internet or failure to comply with Library policies and procedures will result in loss of computer privileges for up to 90 days, or permanently for repeat offenses. Inappropriate use includes: hacking/spamming; viewing or disseminating offensive/illegal material, including but not limited to hate literature, harassment, discriminatory remarks and other anti-social behavior; tampering with settings or equipment; illegal downloading/installing programs. Library staff are the sole arbitrators of inappropriate use.
17. Director/Managers/Supervisors have the authority to block access to computer/Internet services in situations of abuse or disregard of policies.
18. Privacy: The Library uses software to record Internet traffic for statistical purposes, and remote access software for diagnostic and troubleshooting purposes. No attempt is made to link any information accessed to personal identities of individuals. For concerns about privacy, contact the Director/CEO of Library Services or a Branch Librarian.
19. The Library disclaims any liability or responsibility arising from access to, or use of, information obtained through the Internet, or any consequences thereof. Furthermore, the Library disclaims any responsibility for any corruption or damage to patron computer files/discs/USB drives sustained while using the Library public use computers. If a personal device must be accessed, be advised that it is at the patron’s own risk.
20. Copyright: certain copying or distribution of material found on the Internet may infringe on the copyright laws of Canada. The Library disclaims any liability or responsibility for such infringements by patrons.

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21. Patrons are responsible for any charges incurred on the Internet, including printing, and are reminded that personal information should not be given out over the Internet unless on a secured site. For security purposes, it is imperative that patrons log off of confidential sites before leaving the computer.
22. The Library provides accessible computers with specialized hardware and software at our Keswick and Peter Gzowski (Sutton) Branches. These computers are intended for the use of patrons who require the accessibility features they provide. Patrons are not required to provide proof of their accessibility requirements. Accessible computers are booked in one-half (1/2) hour increments in accordance with regulation 2 (above).
23. Library WiFi is open access for all. Use of personal laptops/devices and access to the Library's wireless network and mobile Internet hotspots is at the user's risk. The Library will not be responsible for any compromised information or loss through use of its wireless, ~~or mobile Internet, or~~ Ethernet access, including but not limited to electrical surges, disruption to wireless service, or loss/damage/theft of the wireless device.
24. Printing is available from wireless devices at our Keswick and Peter Gzowski (Sutton) Branches.
25. Staff assistance is not available to troubleshoot technical laptop issues.
26. **This Public Access to Computers and Internet Services policy applies equally to patrons using personal laptop computers and/or devices making use of library WiFi services, mobile Internet hotspots, or Ethernet connection within the library.**

Attachments:

Parental Computer Use Permission Form

POLICY HISTORY:	
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