

5.5 Computer and Internet Use Policy

Pella Public Library

Adopted 9/11/01; Last revised 7/10/18.

The Pella Public Library provides access to the Internet to connect the public to the world of ideas and information, and to provide equal access to that information for all individuals in the community. Library-owned devices are available for use in the library and free, unsecured wireless Internet access is available for public use. This policy applies to all use of the Library's wired or wireless Internet service, whether privately-owned or Library-provided devices are operated.

Providing access to information available on the Internet does not constitute endorsement of the content by the Library. Because the Pella Public Library has no control over what is available on the Internet, the ideas, information, images and opinions on the Internet are beyond the scope of the Library's selection criteria and collection development policy. The Pella Public Library expressly disclaims any liability or responsibility arising from access to or use of information obtained through the Internet.

Library Practices

The Library's Internet access is not encrypted and not secure.

A library card is required to use library-owned devices, including desktop computers. Patrons without a library account may present a valid photo ID at the desk in exchange for the use of a Guest card. Patrons falling outside of these parameters may use the "Quick Stop" guest computer.

Time limits are placed on library equipment in order to provide access to as many users as possible. Length of computer sessions shall be at the discretion of the Library Director and are subject to change.

All printouts are generated at the Print Release station. Patrons are responsible for allowing sufficient time for printing before the library closes. See the Fines & Fees Policy for printing charges.

The Library recognizes and strives to protect patron rights to privacy and confidentiality. The library does not maintain a history of our individual patrons' computer use. Internet use may be temporarily monitored by Library staff if staff believe the Internet is being used in violation of this policy.

The Pella Public Library assumes no responsibility for the use of the Internet by minors, and does not serve in loco parentis (in place of a parent). The ultimate responsibility for what minors read or view on the Internet rests with parents or guardians.

Library staff are happy to assist patrons at their discretion as time permits, but Library staff are not trained computer technicians and are unable to provide in-depth technical support. Library staff will not make any configuration changes to a user's personal computer or other device, and will not operate the device without the patron's explicit verbal permission.

The Library accepts no responsibility for damage to patron equipment, loss of privacy or personal information, or loss of files or other information retrieved or created by patrons while using the library.

Patron Responsibilities

As with other library materials, individuals must accept responsibility for evaluating the content of resources they view, read, or listen to. Monitoring and any restriction of a child's access is the responsibility of the parent or legal guardian.

Patrons are forbidden from sending, receiving or displaying text, graphics or images that may be considered obscene. Under Iowa law, it is a misdemeanor to display obscene materials to minors.

Patrons using library-owned devices agree not to make any changes in the setup or configuration of the software or hardware.

Patrons handling financial transactions or other activities that require confidentiality do so at their own risk. The Internet is not a private environment and security of electronic communication cannot be guaranteed.

Each patron is responsible for complying with copyright law and adhering to software licensing agreements, as well as all local, state, and federal laws including, but not limited to, those concerning fraud, privacy, or obscenity.

Security for personal wireless devices rests solely with the owner. Library staff members may provide guidance for accessing library materials and services with privately-owned devices, but they do not provide technical support.

Patrons should be aware that the Internet is not a secure medium and that third parties may be able to obtain personal information about the patron and/or his/her activities.

Patrons shall observe the guidelines in the Library Behavior Policy. Failure to do so will result in disciplinary action as outlined in that policy. Use of the Library's Internet connection in an illegal, disruptive, or destructive manner may result in the loss of Internet or Library privileges.

All costs incurred while using library equipment or Internet access, including printing costs, are explicitly the responsibility of the patron with whom they originated. The library is not responsible for blank or otherwise misprinted pages.

This policy has been developed in concert with the following:

- American Library Association's Library Bill of Rights, and Interpretations of the Library Bill of Rights;
- State Code of Iowa, Section 728;
- Pella Public Library policies on Circulation, Fines and Fees, and Behavior in the Library.