

DeKalb Public Library Public Internet Policy

Quick checklist of rules;

1. **Do not give your log-in number to anyone.**
2. **One hour per day.**
3. **Printing costs 10 cents a page for black and white and 50 cents a page for color.**
4. **Do not use anyone else's log-in number.**

Public Computers

The DeKalb Public Library provides public computers and software for both adults and children to use. Anyone is welcome to use the computers, including non-residents without a library card, cardholders from other libraries, and DeKalb Public Library patrons. Non-residents will be charged \$5.00 a year to use the internet. If patrons wish to print, there is a \$ 0.10 charge per page for black and white copies, and \$ 0.50 charge per page for color copies.

The Library is not responsible for a patron's lost data, damaged disks or portable memory devices.

Access to Internet and Electronic Networks

All patrons, adults and children alike, must sign a waiver form before using the Internet. Waiver forms must be signed at the Circulation Desks. Children under 18 must have a parent or guardian's signature to use the Internet.

Libraries make it possible for citizens to have access to the information they need to make informed decisions. Every library user benefits from expanded access to information beyond the four walls of a single library building.

The DeKalb Public Library and all ILLINET libraries use electronic information networks such as the Internet for a variety of purposes:

- Access to shared automation systems that provide bibliographic access to the collections of the local library and libraries in the region and across the state.
- Access to the wealth of information resources available via the internet.
- Access to general and specialized shared licensed databases.

Traditionally, the DeKalb Public Library has made information available in a variety of formats. Integrating electronic resources from outside networks with the Library's current collection broadens the spectrum of information, ideas, images, and commentary available, and shows what the electronic information age can bring from around the globe to all citizens to DeKalb, regardless of education, occupation, or age.

External Networks

The policy for Access to Internet/Electronic Information Networks is part of the Library's overall policy structure and should be interpreted in conjunction with other existing policies. Patrons of the DeKalb Public Library who use networks not owned by the Library will adhere to the policies and procedures established by the administration of these networks and facilities.

Library Patrons' Rights

Library patrons have certain rights with respect to use of electronic information networks such as the Internet. The DeKalb Public Library will work with other libraries in the Illinois Library and Information Network to preserve and protect these rights, subject to limitations imposed by licensing and payment agreements with database providers.

- Library patrons have the right to confidentiality and privacy in the use of electronic information networks **to the extent possible, given certain constraints such as proximity of other patrons and staff in a public access setting.**
- Library patrons have the right to equitable access to electronic information networks.
- Library patrons have the right to access and read all Library service policies and to discuss questions with appropriate Library staff.
- Internet users shall not access graphic sexual or violent or illegal material.

Children's Access to Electronic Information Networks

The DeKalb Public Library supports the right of all Library users to access information and will not deny access to electronic information networks based on age. The Library recognizes that electronic information networks such as the internet may contain material that is inappropriate for children. Parents/guardians are encouraged to discuss with their children issues of appropriate use and electronic information network safety.

Parents/guardians are expected to monitor and supervise their children's use of the internet. Parent/guardians, not the Library or its staff, are responsible for the internet information selected or accessed by their children. Parents/guardians may restrict their children—**and only their own children**—from access to internet resources available through the Library.

Freedom of Access

The freedom to access information is also a responsibility. The internet enables the Library to provide resources not available within the confines of its own collection. However, the internet is an unregulated medium. The DeKalb Public Library does not assume responsibility for material accessed on electronic information networks. Internet resources are not subject to the same selection criteria that the Library uses for other materials.

- Information obtained via the internet may or may not be reliable and may or may not be obtained from a reliable source.
- Information obtained via the internet may or may not be accurate.
- Information obtained via the internet may or may not be current and up to date.
- Links to information on the internet may not always be valid, and particular information sites on the internet may sometimes be unavailable, and this unavailability often occurs unpredictably.
- Certain information obtained via the internet may be considered controversial by some Library patrons.

The DeKalb Public Library does not control the information content of the internet. The library does have filters on some of the computers but Library users are the final selectors in using the internet and are responsible for their individual choices and decisions.

Staff Assistance and Instructions

The DeKalb Public Library's staff may provide assistance to patrons in the use of electronic information networks as time and staff knowledge permits. **Library staff cannot provide in-depth training concerning internet computer jargon or usage** except when the Library offers specified internet classes, and these sessions will be clearly defined.

Legal and Ethical Use

Library computing resources may only be used for legal purposes and should be used in accordance with the ethical standards of the DeKalb Public Library. Examples of unacceptable purposes/activities include, but are not limited to the following:

- Harassment of, libeling, or slandering other users.
- Destruction of, damage to, or unauthorized access and/or alteration of the Library's computer equipment, software, or network security procedures.
- Use of electronic information networks in any way that violates a Federal or State law.
- Use of electronic information networks in any way that violates licensing and payment agreements between the DeKalb Public Library and network/database providers.
- Unauthorized duplication of copyright-protected software or violation of software license agreements.
- Obstruction of other people's work by consuming large amounts of system resources, deliberately crashing any Library system, or otherwise causing degradation of system performance.
- Behaving in a manner that is disruptive to other users, including, but not limited to, overuse of computer equipment that serves to deny access to other users or viewing material unacceptable in a public space.

Sanctions

Violations of any aspect of the policies described above will result in the loss of Library privileges. Illegal acts involving Library computing resources may also be subject to prosecution by local, state, or federal authorities.

Adopted September 9, 2009