

Internet Policy

The Red Hook Public Library provides free access to internet resources equally to all Library users without censorship. The freedom to read, along with the freedom to hear and to view, is protected by the [First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States](#). The library supports intellectual freedom and has adopted the following statements as policy: [American Library Association's \(ALA\) Library Bill of Rights](#), [ALA Freedom to Read Statement](#), [ALA Statement on Access to Library Resources and Services for Minors](#), [the American Film and Video Association's Freedom to View Statement](#), and [the New York Library Association's Position Statement on the Defense of Intellectual Freedom](#).

Access to the Library's internet, as with all materials, programs, and services offered by the library, is not restricted on the basis of age. Parents and guardians of children under 18 years of age are solely responsible for the internet information selected or accessed by their children. Parents and guardians, and only parents and guardians, may restrict their own children from access to internet resources. Parents and guardians are advised to discuss internet safety and to supervise their children's internet sessions to ensure their safety and privacy. Users of all ages should exercise caution and follow safety measures when interacting with strangers online and when sharing personal information on the Internet.

Internet services may be used only for legal purposes. Use of these services in violation of any local, state, or federal law or regulation or applicable court decision is prohibited. This includes any unauthorized copying of copyright protected material. Deliberately compromising the library's internet service is strictly forbidden. It is the responsibility of the user to determine the legality of their computer activity.

The Internet, as an information resource, enables the library to provide information beyond the confines of its own collection. It allows access to ideas, information, and commentary from around the globe. It is also a largely unregulated medium. Please evaluate all information carefully before relying on it. Library staff are available to assist in finding a broad range of reputable information.

Patrons are encouraged to be mindful of those around them while browsing the web. Library computers are equipped with a program that undoes any changes made to them, or any data saved to them, when rebooted. Patrons will need to save any computer data to a personal external device, or to a personal cloud service, if they wish to have access to it at a later date. Patrons must delete all personal data and log off of all online accounts before ending their computer session to ensure their privacy and security.

Library staff are happy to assist patrons with basic computer and internet use, as time and staffing permit. Patrons are advised to schedule time with staff for more advanced or time-

intensive assistance. Detailed questions about important subjects such as law, health, or finance are best handled by professionals in those fields. Library staff will happily direct patrons to those experts.

Anyone found in violation of our policy will be asked to leave the library property, and barred from use of the library for a period of time determined by the library director.

Adopted 3.21.24