

Internet & Computer Use Policy

These guidelines apply to all users of Kern County Library computers or networks. If you have any questions about these guidelines or what they mean, please contact Library staff for more information.

Purpose

To fulfill our mission, Kern County Library provides access to a broad range of information resources, including those available through the Internet. We make this service available as part of our mission to offer a broadly defined program of informational, educational, recreational and cultural enrichment opportunities for people of all ages and backgrounds, which reflect the great diversity of interests and opinions in our communities.

Children's Use

In accordance with Resolution 2012-296, adopted by the Kern County Board of Supervisors on October 23, 2012, all computer stations at Kern County Library locations offer only filtered access to Library customers of all ages. The Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) requires Libraries, such as the Kern County Library which receive discounts on Internet connections and service to block or filter for all users visual depictions that are obscene or child pornography, and to filter, for minors, depictions which are harmful to minors.

- Persons at least 18 years old are entitled to have the filter disabled for a specific period of use upon making a request to Library staff.
- When asked for unfiltered access by a person 18 or older, Library staff will respond immediately and without question to disable the filter. If the customer requesting unfiltered internet access appears younger than 18, Library staff will check the customer's ID or Library Card registration to verify their age.
- Internet users are entitled to privacy. As with other Library materials, Library staff does not monitor what any user views or reads over the Internet. If the nature of the content being viewed on the Library computer workstation disturbs other Library users, the viewer will be asked to cease.
- Internet users of all ages may ask Library staff to evaluate sites they believe are inappropriately blocked by the filter or have been rated incorrectly. Library staff will also consider requests by Internet users to block websites believed to display unlawful images.
- Parents or legal guardians are responsible for their minor children's use of the Internet. Parents should let their children know if there are materials that they do not want them to use and should supervise their child's Internet sessions.
- The Internet is a global entity with a highly diverse user population and information content. The Library cannot protect users from materials they may find offensive. However, in order to prohibit minors from having access to pornography, filtering software has been installed and is available on all Internet browsers in the Kern County Library System.

Customers May Not:

1. Make any attempt to damage computer equipment or software.
2. Make any attempt to alter software configurations.
3. Make any attempt to cause degradation of system performance.
4. Use any Library workstation for any illegal or criminal purpose.
5. Violate copyright laws or software licensing agreements in their use of Library workstations.
6. Engage in any activity which is deliberately slanderous.
7. Install or download any software.

Violations may result in loss of access. Unlawful activities will be dealt with in a serious and appropriate manner.

Choosing and Evaluating Sources

The Library assumes responsibility only for the information provided on the home page and the supporting web pages resident on this server. The Internet offers access to many valuable local, national and international sources of information. However, not all sources on the Internet provide accurate, complete, or current information. A good information consumer evaluates the validity of information found as with other Library materials.

Copyright

U.S. Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S. Code) prohibits the unauthorized reproduction or distribution of copyrighted materials, except as permitted by the principles of "fair use." Users may not copy or distribute electronic materials (including electronic mail, text, images, programs or data) without the explicit permission of the copyright holder. Responsibility for any consequences of copyright infringement lies with the user; the Library expressly disclaims any liability or responsibility resulting from such use.

Internet Functions Supported

The Library provides a graphical World Wide Web browser at all branch locations. The Library does not provide uploading of computer programs or files at this time.

Note: The Library expressly disclaims any liability or responsibility arising from access to or use of information obtained through its electronic information systems, or any consequences thereof.