

Mission

The Library recognizes its unique position and responsibility to build community and cultivate opportunities for Kern County residents to participate fully in our society as an informed citizenry, by connecting people, resources, ideas, information, and technology.

The goal of the Library is to provide an environment where all Library visitors are welcome to access the broad range of informational resources, including those available through the internet.

Purpose

The Library provides internet access as part of our mission to offer online resources that reflect diverse opinions and viewpoints for visitors of all ages and backgrounds.

Provide a Welcoming & Comfortable Environment

The Library's goal is to provide a comfortable and welcoming environment for all. The internet contains a wide variety of material and opinions from diverse points of view. Some websites provide information that is inaccurate, incomplete, or dated, and some content may be offensive, disturbing, and potentially illegal.

Computer Use and Internet Access

The following statements apply to all users of Library computers or networks.

1. The Library provides free internet access and the Microsoft Office suite on all public computers.
2. Printing and copying are available at Kern County libraries for a small fee. Check with individual branches for scanning and mobile printing options.
3. Library visitors are expected to use computers, internet, and online resources independently and should consult basic self-help resources. Library staff, when available, can assist visitors in accessing resources on computers, but are not expected to do the work for them.
4. Computers are accessed through the reservation system using their personal library card or a guest pass provided by staff.
5. Visitors may not download or save anything to the Library computers, only to their own personal USB devices. Files from personal USB devices can be uploaded.
6. Public access computers will not allow software or applications to be uploaded, downloaded, or installed.
7. The Library strives to balance the rights of visitors to access various types of information resources with the rights of users to work in a public environment free from disruptive sounds and visuals. Some information resources on the internet are inappropriate for viewing in a public setting.
8. Violation of the Internet & Computer Use Policy, including viewing of inappropriate sites,

may result in suspension of Library privileges. All public computers may be monitored by Library staff. Because the Library is a public place shared by people of all ages, staff reserves the right to end internet sessions when such material is displayed.

9. Computer users are expected to observe the Behavior Expectations for Library Visitors, or they will be asked to leave.

Internet Filtering

The Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) requires libraries receiving discounts on internet connections and service through the E-rate program to block or filter for all users, visual depictions that are obscene or child pornography, and to specifically filter for minors, depictions which are harmful to them. CIPA was enacted by Congress in 2000 to address concerns about children's access to obscene or harmful content over the internet.

All Kern County Library public access computers and networks employ CIPA-compliant filtering software in accordance with Resolution 2012-296, adopted by the Kern County Board of Supervisors on October 23, 2012.

Library visitors over 18 years old may request the filtering on some websites to be deactivated temporarily during their session. No access will be granted to sites rated by the filter as spyware, malware, adware, or the like, because they have the potential to harm the Library's network and computers, disrupting the Library's ability to provide service to its users. Phishing sites are blocked because of their deceptive collection of personal information.

Parents' Responsibility for Children's Internet & Computer Use

1. Only children 17 and under are permitted to use the designated children's computers.
2. Parents or legal guardians are responsible for their children's use of the internet and should supervise their child's internet sessions.
3. Library staff are not responsible for overseeing children's computer access.
4. The Library's computers use filtering software, and it will block many sites that may be offensive to some but may not block out all materials that may be offensive to all users.
5. Dissemination of personal identification information regarding minors is forbidden.
6. Practical steps shall be taken to promote the safety and security of minors when using email, chat rooms, and other forms of direct electronic communications through the use of a firewall and staff & parent education.

Prohibited Activities

The Library reserves the right to adjust or limit functions within a specific software program or equipment setup in order to prevent service disruptions. Violations may result in loss of access. Unlawful activities will be dealt with in a serious and appropriate manner.

1. Use any Library public computer for any illegal or criminal purpose, including, but not limited to: illegal activities or any other activities that are intended to interfere with or disrupt network users, services, or equipment are prohibited.
2. Make any attempt to damage or alter computer equipment or software.
3. Install or download any software.
4. Make any attempt to cause degradation of system performance.
5. Engage in any activity which is deliberately slanderous.

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.

The Library is not responsible for ensuring that proper copyright protection procedures are followed. Responsibility for any consequences of copyright infringement lies with the user; the Library expressly disclaims any liability or responsibility resulting from such use.

Confidentiality and Privacy

The Library follows California State law regarding privacy of Library visitors' records and information. The Library does not, as part of its regular practice, retain any data, including websites visited, passwords, credit card numbers, or any other information a visitor has entered. It is the Library's usual practice to erase all customer use records, except those essential for library business operations. The Library will release records, including those relating to Internet usage, only as required by law.

Internet users are entitled to privacy and, as with other Library materials, Library staff do not monitor what any user views or reads over the internet. If the nature of the content being viewed on the Library computer is determined to be disturbing to other Library visitors, the viewer will be asked to cease.

Disclaimers

1. 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.
2. The Library assumes responsibility only for the information provided on the Library's website. 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.
3. While the Library is sensitive to the concerns of visitors regarding internet content, no one, including the Library, can control the information available online.
4. Individuals are responsible for their own use of the internet in a public space. The responsibility for what minors read, view, or listen to on the internet rests with a parent or legal guardian.