



Uintah County Library

Public Internet and Computer Access Policy

As provided in the Uintah County Library's Mission Statement, the internet is recognized as a valuable information resource. ~~However, T~~he provision of this service to the public, ~~however,~~ is subject to Federal, state, and local laws, available funding, physical space, and public need or demand.

The Uintah County ~~Public~~ Library (UCL) offers ~~a variety of various~~ computer services to the community. This ~~Computer Use Policy~~ Public Internet and Computer Access Policy was developed under the direction of the Library Board of Directors ~~in order~~ to meet the provisions of the applicable Utah Code Sections. This policy includes rules for use and is guided by the Federal Children's Internet Protection Act, ~~and portions of the Utah Code described in UCA~~ Utah Code Annotated (U.C.A.) § 9-7-213, 9-7-215, and 9-7-216, and Utah Administrative Rule ~~458-2.223-2,~~ ~~and is reviewed at least once every three years.~~ The current version of the policy is ~~posted available~~ at the library circulation desk and on the library website (~~<https://library.uintah.gov>~~<http://www.uintahlibrary.org>). A summary of the library laws regarding internet use is provided on the opening screen of each public ~~i~~nternet computer session in the library.

~~Providing p~~Public internet service entails the commitment of significant Library resources, both in originating computer services and continued maintenance. In initiating service or attempting to meet public demand for such service, the ~~Library~~ UCL enters into a contractual relationship with users of that service. In this contractual relationship, all parties have certain obligations and responsibilities.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF UINTAH COUNTY LIBRARY

1. The ~~Library~~ UCL will provide internet services to the public at reasonably fast transmission rates though commonly available workstations.
2. The ~~Library~~ UCL will maintain computer internet services at reasonably fast transmission ~~levels-rates~~ so long as public interest demands ~~it-them~~ and the service can be financially supported.
3. The ~~Library~~ UCL will enhance computer services to meet public needs and/or emerging technologies subject to existing funding and facilities.
4. The ~~Library~~ UCL will assist the user by providing browsing, downloading, and printing capabilities, ~~as well as~~ and answering basic questions regarding computer and software operation and the internet in general. The ~~Library~~ UCL is currently unable to provide exhaustive or formal internet training.

5. The Library UCL will allow fair and open access to internet resources; however, the Uintah County Library restricts access to Internet or online sites that contain material determined to be harmful to children and described in U.C.A. § Section 9-7-215. As such, Filters will shall be maintained on all library computers to prevent access to such sites through the Utah Education Network (UEN). Adult patrons are entitled to may request that a the filter be disabled for purposes of research or other lawful purposes.
6. Regulation and security of internet resources will be maintained for the purpose of preserving the resource as well as providing for the orderly and efficient use of a publicly shared medium.
7. The Library UCL will solicit and encourage users and other interested parties to comment on the level and quality of service as well as and suggest service or product enhancements.

PUBLIC INTERNET ACCESS USER RESPONSIBILITIES

The Internet, a world wide worldwide network of computer networks, is an essential medium for obtaining and transmitting information of all types. However, the Internet is an unregulated medium, and information that is inaccurate, illegal, or that some may find offensive or disturbing, is available for access. To initiate a session using the Internet, all users must agree to the library's use policy, which appears on the browser's opening screen. All users must agree to the Public Internet and Computer Access Policy on the browser's opening screen to initiate a session using the internet.

The Library UCL restricts access to the Internet or online sites that contain material described in Utah Code Annotated §9-7-215, prohibits illegal activity on Internet computers, and takes no responsibility for the content of materials viewed on the Internet. Briefly, illegal activity under Utah law includes gambling, fraud, and viewing materials legally defined as child pornography, obscenity, and materials harmful to minors. For the complete text of the Utah code that pertains to Internet use in the Library at the Uintah County Library, please ask the library staff or find it on the World Wide Web: visit <https://le.utah.gov/xcode/code.html> and navigate to the following sections: (Utah Code Annotated U.C.A. § 9-7-213, 9-7-215, 9-7-216, and <https://rules.utah.gov/> Utah Administrative Rule 458-2-223.2).

All users acknowledge and agree to the following:

1. Misuse, abuse or modification of software and/or hardware is strictly forbidden.
2. Searches conducted and materials retrieved must meet community standards and comply with all relevant local, state and national federal laws.
3. Accessing sexually explicit, and pornographic sites or materials is expressly forbidden.

4. Accessing sites inciting violence, racial hatred, or criminal activity is expressly forbidden.
5. Downloads and printouts must adhere to current copyright law. Illegal downloading involves the unauthorized acquisition of copyrighted material from the internet, infringing on the rights of copyright holders.
6. Engaging in computer 'hacking' or unauthorized network access is forbidden.
- ~~7. Disruptive, combative, or boisterous behavior is not permitted.~~
- ~~8.7.~~ Users must comply with all relevant Library and resource use policies.
8. Confidentiality or privacy is not guaranteed. The internet is not a secure medium and user access may be monitored at any point by either authorized or unauthorized individuals.
9. You may download files using supported media. The library is not responsible for damage to your media or for corruption of your data, including damage caused by mechanical malfunction or corruption caused by virus or spyware infection while using library computers. Do not attempt to run or execute programs or applications from personal storage media.
10. The Library UCL reserves the right to deny internet or Library services to individuals violating the law and/or library policies. Illegal activities will be reported to the appropriate authorities.
- ~~11. Children's Computers: Parents must sign the "Internet Use Agreement" in order for their children to use the library computers. The Library takes no responsibility for content of materials that children view on the Internet, games they may play on the computers, etc. Staff members oversee computers as much as possible, but parents are responsible for the actions of their children, whether or not they are present. Additionally, children are not allowed to engage in Internet "chat rooms." There are exceptions for educational and therapeutic chat sites; however, visitation to such sites must be arranged in advance, approved in writing by a parent or guardian as well as the children's library specialist or the Library Director.~~

The Library UCL, pursuant to under Federal laws and Utah code U.C.A. §s 9-7-215 and 9-7-216, imposes a technology protection measure (filtering software) on all library computers with Internet access (including staff and public access ~~computers~~). This filtering is intended to meet the requirements of Utah Code U.C.A. § 9-7-215; and to: (1) protect against illegal visual depictions that are child pornography or obscene, or (2) protect minors against visual depictions that are child pornography, harmful to minors, or obscene.

However, the federal Children's Internet Protection Act and Utah state law specify that patrons aged d 18 and over may request a library staff member to disable turn off the filter during that patron's Internet session. Users need not give a reason for disabling turning off the filters; ~~but they~~

are always responsible for their sessions ~~at all times~~. Administrative procedures and guidelines for staff to follow in enforcing the policy have been established, ~~and~~ They are described herein, and procedures to handle complaints about this policy and its enforcement, ~~and~~ about observed patron behavior, are included below and are available at the library for public review.

ACCESS TO SPECIFIC INTERNET COMPONENTS

~~Uintah County Library does not offer unlimited access to all internet technologies or resources. Materials, access or technologies may be selected for value or relevance.~~

- ~~1. The World Wide Web—Permitted through the assigned browser~~
- ~~2. Telnet—Permitted~~
- ~~3. Email and attachments—Permitted if the user's account may be accessed directly through the browser—not allowable if requiring separate software (as Eudora)~~
- ~~4. Gopher—Permitted through the browser~~
- ~~5. Printing or file downloads—Permitted through Library engineered channels designed to facilitate such functions.~~
- ~~6. Software downloads—Legal software downloads are permitted.~~
- ~~7. Audio Book downloads—Permitted~~

~~Any area(s) not addressed by this section must be approved in advance in writing by the Library Director or her/his designee.~~

ELECTRONIC CONNECTIVITY FUNDED EQUIPMENT

~~The library has received funding from the federal Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF) to purchase [insert what was purchased. E.g., hotspots, tablets, internet access, etc.]. Any ECF supported equipment and services can only be provided to patrons who declare they do not have access to the equipment or services sufficient to access the internet.~~

POLICY VIOLATIONS

Consequences for violating Uintah County Library policies may include:

- ~~1. Verbal warning from staff or other users (staff may intercede on behalf of others).~~
2. Ending a computer session or being required to leave the library.

3. Suspension of library privileges including access to computers or ~~to~~ the building.
4. Police intervention, ~~which~~ could include legal citations, arrest, and prosecution for trespass and/or other offenses.

STAFF HANDLING VIOLATIONS OF POLICY

When staff members observe a violation of ~~this policy~~ library policies, they ~~are expected to~~ shall report ~~the violation it~~ to their supervisor ~~or the person in charge~~. Patrons in violation of ~~this policy~~ library policies will be given a verbal warning for offenses deemed minor by UCL staff. ~~When enforcing library policy, staff members are expected to maintain a calm, non-judgmental attitude and to avoid a loud tone of voice.~~

If the problem behavior persists, or in the case of extreme misuse, including the violation of any law, law enforcement will be contacted. ~~†~~The patron ~~will~~ may be asked to leave the library ~~for the day~~. The police will be called if the patron refuses to leave the library after ~~being asked to do so~~, a lawful request to leave or when using the library's computers to engage in illegal acts.

~~Loss of~~ Losing internet privileges ~~will~~ for a definite time, up to one (1) year, ~~to~~ will be determined by the Library Director. Any suspension longer than one (1) week may be appealed to the library Board of Directors. (See Standards of Conduct, Staff Enforcement of Behavior Rules, Sections 8-11.)

PROCEDURES FOR ADDRESSING CONCERNS ~~ABOUT THIS POLICY AND ITS ENFORCEMENT:~~

Questions or concerns about this policy and/or its enforcement may be directed to ~~any the~~ Library Director and should be in writing, dated, and signed. If ~~any concern cannot be resolved by the~~ Library Director ~~cannot resolve the concern~~ to the ~~satisfaction of the patron's~~ satisfaction, ~~a written report will be submitted at the patron can request that their concern be added to the next available meeting of the~~ Library Board meeting agenda. After fully, considering ~~ation of~~ the specific concern, the Library Board will ~~make a final determination of~~ decide on the matter. The patron will be informed in writing of their response within a week of the meeting. The Library Board of Directors' decision will be final.

Library patrons who have questions or concerns about this or any Uintah County Library policy and enforcement of these policies may contact the Library Director or the Library Board of Directors for more information.

This policy supersedes all previous versions and will be reviewed every three years or as needed.

Approved by the Uintah County Library Board of Directors.

Reviewed: February 11, 1998

Amended: February 22, 2006

Amended: March 28, 2007

Amended: April 25, 2007

Amended: June 22, 2011.

Amended: July 16, 2021

Amended: February 19, 2025

DRAFT



~~Uintah County Library Patron Self-Certification of Need for ECF Device(s)~~

~~Patron Self-Certification:~~

~~The equipment and services funded by the federal Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF) can only be provided to patrons who declare they do not have access to the equipment or services sufficient to access the internet. By signing this statement I declare I do not have access to such equipment or services.~~

Patron signature

Date