

RACINE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Wi-Fi Access Policy

Adopted by the Library Board April 21, 2005

Revised April 20, 2006

The Racine Public Library provides an unfiltered wireless Internet Hot Spot. This service is for patrons with Wireless-capable devices, such as wireless-capable laptops and handheld computers. This service is intended to be available during the normal operating hours of the library. However, the library cannot guarantee that wireless service will be available at any specific time.

To access the Wi-Fi network, you need a laptop or handheld computer that is configured to conform to standard 802.11b. Most new laptops that come configured for wireless access can automatically pick up the wireless signal. Individuals may need to know how to use their wireless device's configuration software to connect to the wireless network. Due to liability issues, library staff is not allowed to configure patrons' laptops or handheld computers or install any devices or software on those computers. Technical support is only available from the wireless service vendor.

Wireless networks are not secure and use is at the individual's own risk. Virus, security and privacy protection are the responsibility of the patron and are not provided by the library.

The library is not responsible for any damage to data files, alteration to file systems, or functionality of the computer resulting from connecting to the wireless network.

The library is not responsible for damage, theft, loss of property, personal information, software or other personal property used in the library.

The library cannot guarantee Internet speed or quality of the connection.

The library does not supply electrical power for patron equipment. The patron is responsible for supplying charged batteries.

The library does not supply printing on the wireless network.

Although patrons using the Internet in the Adult Services Department are free to access any site with content that is protected under the free speech provisions of the Constitution, it is unacceptable to send, receive, or display text or graphics which may reasonably be construed as obscene by community standards. The determination that content of a web site is "obscene by community standards" can be made only by the courts, not by the Library staff or the Library board.

It is illegal to view, send, receive, print, distribute, or display visual depictions that are child pornography. It is also illegal to view, send, receive, print, distribute, or display visual depictions that are harmful to minors if you are a minor, are in the presence of minor/s, or are communicating with minors. (Wis. Stat. sec. 948.11)

Since the privacy screens that are available on the library's public Internet workstations are not available for patrons' private equipment, users viewing sites that could be construed as obscene will be asked to exit those sites. Failure to comply with such requests will result in a request to leave the library. Failure to comply with that request will be reported to the police, and will result in a suspension of library privileges for one week. A second incident of this nature will result in suspension of library privileges for six months.

Illegal conduct will be reported immediately to the police and will result in the suspension of Library privileges for one year, according to the Policy on Patron Behavior.

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