



INTERNET AND COMPUTER USE POLICY

*Approved by the Vista Grande Public Library Board of Directors – 20-May-2008
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In accordance with its mission, the Vista Grande Public Library provides free use of computers and access to the Internet, VGPL also provides wireless access to patrons who have their own, correctly configured, laptop computers, as a service that expands access to information and resources not easily available in the community.

Vista Grande Public Library endorses the American Library Association's statement on Access to Electronic Information, Services, and Networks. The Library's Internet access is intended primarily to provide an information resource for users. The Library has no control over these resources, nor does the Library have complete knowledge of what is on the Internet. The Library does not select, edit, or take responsibility for Internet content, its reliability, currency, or accuracy. Internet communications are not secure and the Library is not responsible for the privacy of electronic communications.

The Library does not restrict lawful access to materials or websites, nor does it protect Library users from information they may find offensive. As with other library materials, restriction of a child's access to the Internet is the responsibility of the parent or legal guardian.

As a recipient of E-rate funds to support and enhance internet services, VGPL will comply with Federal law that has been implemented to provide Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) mandating filtering on all library Internet terminals. This filter is site specific and does not block research sites or information. If you believe access is unjustly denied, please contact the Library Director. An additional component of CIPA, which parents will want to be aware of, is that minors are not permitted to disclose any personal information when using e-mail, visiting chat rooms or using any other electronic communications.

To comply with the Children's Internet Protection Act [Pub, L. No. 106-554 and 47 USC 254 (h)], it is required policy of VGPL to: Restrict access of

inappropriate matter or materials that are harmful to minors. Provide user safety and security of minors when using electronic mail, chat rooms, and other forms of direct electronic communications. Prevent unauthorized access, and other unlawful online activity; and prevent unauthorized online disclosure, use, or dissemination of personal identification information of minors.

Access to Inappropriate Material: Practical technology protection measures (Internet filters) shall be used to block or filter access to inappropriate information on the Internet. Inappropriate material is defined as “visual depictions of material deemed obscene or child pornography, and material deemed harmful to minors”, i.e., depictions of human nudity for the purpose of erotic arousal, and depictions of violence for the purposes of sensationalism. Subject to staff supervision, technology protection measures may be disabled in the case of adults, only for bona fide research or other lawful purposes.

Inappropriate Network Usage

Practical steps shall be taken to promote the safety and security of the Library’s online computer network users when using electronic mail, chat rooms, instant messaging, and other forms of direct electronic communications. Specifically, as required by CIPA, prevention of inappropriate network usage includes: Unauthorized access, including so –called “hacking” and other unlawful activities Unauthorized disclosure, dissemination and use of personal identification regarding minors.

Library computer use must be in accordance with this policy and the Library Rules of Conduct. Copies of these policies are available from the library circulation desk and on the Library website.

Section 1 – General Rules

Use of the computers and the Internet shall be consistent with the Library’s mission, goals, policies, and procedures and with applicable local, state, federal, and international laws. Inappropriate or illegal use of these resources in the Library includes, but is not limited to:

- Use of the network to make unauthorized entry into other computational, informational, or communication services or resources,
- Distribution of unsolicited advertising,
- Invasion of the privacy of others,
- Making any attempt to damage computer equipment or software,

- Engaging in any activity that is harassing or defamatory.
- Use of the Internet for any illegal activity, including but not limited to, violation of copyright or other rights of third parties, or in a manner inconsistent with the Library's non-profit status or its proper operation.
- No pornographic web pages or images may be accessed, transmitted or displayed anywhere on library premises

Section 2 -- Computer Use

- All public access library computers are available on a first come, first served basis.
- Patrons sign up for a 30-minute use session. This may be extended as long as there are open stations.
- 1 person per computer station unless approved by library staff.
- Patrons will promptly give up the computer when requested by staff.
- It will be the computer user's responsibility to pay for any equipment damaged during computer use.
- Patrons may download files using supported media.
- Library is not responsible for damage to media or for corruption of data, including damage caused by mechanical malfunction or corruption caused by virus or spyware infection while using library computers.
- Patrons will not attempt to run or execute programs or applications from personal storage media.
- Headphones or ear buds must be used to listen to computer audio.
- Patrons may print from networked computers; there is a charge for this service.
- Printing is not available from patron devices.
- Electrical outlets may be used for patron-owned computing devices. Such use may not restrict any library service or present a safety hazard.
- The Library's wireless network is not secure. The Library is not responsible for damage or lost data resulting from connection to the Library's network.

Section 3 – Internet Access

- The Library does not limit use of the computers and internet for patrons under the age of 18 beyond the policies stated herein, and considers this to be the responsibility of parents or guardians. The Library is not responsible for material accessed by or actions taken by minors through its computers or Wi-Fi service. Unaccompanied minors will not be

- monitored by staff or volunteers, except when they are registered participants in an official library program.
- No station provides support for all file types, browser plug-ins, or Internet technologies.
 - No guarantee of privacy is made concerning personal information the patron inputs or accesses on library computers. The Library is not responsible for any loss of or damage to personal files or data.
 - Users are responsible for complying with copyright law, licensing agreements and the policies of individual websites.

Section 4 – Consequences:

Inappropriate or illegal use will result in temporary or permanent suspension of computer use, internet access and/or library privileges. Appropriate authorities will be notified where necessary.

The library staff will develop rules and procedures as necessary to ensure fair and reasonable access to the Internet.

This policy will be reviewed when changes warrant.