



INTERNET AND COMPUTER USE POLICY

*Approved by the Vista Grande Public Library Board of Directors – 20-May-2008
Revised and approved by the Vista Grande Public Library Board of Directors – 15 Mar 2016, 18 June 2019*

In accordance with its mission, the Vista Grande Public Library provides free use of computers and access to the Internet, including Wi-Fi, 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 filter Internet content or take responsibility for 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.

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 (including personal laptop computers). (New Mexico State Law -- <http://164.64.110.239/nmac/cgibin/hse/homepagesearchengine.exe?url=http://164.64.110.239/nmac/parts/title04/04.005.0007.htm;geturl;terms=pornography>)

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 customer-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.

- Wireless network is only available during library open hours except when specially configured for meetings upon advance request.

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.