The Dr. Grace O. Doane Alden Public Library Internet Use Policy

This policy applies to all users of the Dr. Grace O. Doane Alden Public Library computers or networks.

Purpose

To fulfill our mission, the Dr. Grace O. Doane Alden Public Library provides access to a broad range of information resources, including those available through the Internet. Internet resources offer links 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 all information found.

Staff Assistance

As with other library tools, staff may help patrons access the Internet and offer suggestions on a starting search. Library staff cannot provide in-depth training concerning computer or personal computer use. Library staff members may provide guidance for accessing library materials and services, but they do not provide technical support.

Responsibilities of Users

Adult computer use is offered in sixty (60) minute sessions on a first-come, first-serve basis; each user is allowed one session in a 24-hour period. An additional session of up to sixty (60) minutes may be allowed only if there is no one else waiting for the computer. Once having had one session of service for sixty (60) minutes, the user must abandon use of the computer if another patron requests use of the service (within 15 minutes of the request) even if it has not been a full sixty (60) minutes on the second session.

Guidelines:

1. To access the Internet, patrons must be in good standing with the Library.
2. No food or drink allowed in the computer area.
3. Within the copyright guidelines, patrons may download information using their personal saving device or print at a rate of $0.20 per page for a black and white print out and $.40 per color print out.
4. The Library reserves the right to limit the amount of use per patron, per day, and per week.

Users May Not:

1. Circumvent filtering or blocking software, or other security measures, to access visual depictions deemed (a) obscene, or (b) child pornography, or (c) harmful to minors.
2. Use the workstations to gain access to the Library's networks or computer systems or to any other network or computer system.
3. Obstruct other people's work by consuming large amounts of system resources or by deliberately crashing any Library computer system.
4. Attempt to damage computer equipment or software.
5. Attempt to alter software configurations.
6. Attempt to cause degradation of system performance.
7. Use any Library workstation for any illegal or criminal purpose.
8. Violate copyright laws or software licensing agreements in their use of Library workstations.
9. Engage in any activity that is deliberately and maliciously offensive, libelous, or slanderous.
10. Install or download any software.

Violations may result in loss of access. The Staff is empowered to terminate a user's session if necessary. Unlawful activities will be dealt with in a serious and appropriate manner, including notification of law enforcement authorities.

Supervising Children's Use

Computer use for children is offered in thirty (30) minute sessions on a first-come, first-serve basis; each user is allowed one session in a 24-hour period.

Supervision of a child's access to the Internet is ultimately the responsibility of the parent or guardian; the Library does not have the right or responsibility to act on behalf of the parent/guardian. However, this Library does filter Internet access for minors (persons under the age of 18) to certain visual depictions that are (1) obscene (as defined in section 1460 of title 18, United States Code), or (2) child pornography (as defined in section 2256 of title 18, United States Code), or (3) harmful to minors.

Specifically, parents must warn their children of the inherent dangers of disclosing or disseminating personal identification information, such as home addresses, telephone numbers, parents' work addresses or telephone numbers, or the name or location of the child's school. Parents also need to monitor their child's use of electronic mail, chat rooms, and other forms of direct electronic communication.

Website Filtering

The Library values free and equal access to information, even when that information may be controversial, unorthodox or unacceptable to others. With its implementation of filtering software, the Library balances its commitment to customers' diverse interests and individual rights with the need to provide a welcoming and comfortable environment for all ages. With these statements in mind, the Library has implemented filtering software, which blocks sites that depict pornography, child pornography or obscenity. It is not the intention of the Library to filter medical information or images. However, there may be instances where information has been inappropriately blocked. The Library also restricts access to some websites with automatic downloads built into the homepage. These sites are not blocked by the Library, but the downloads may be. If a downloaded file changes the basic configuration of the computer or the browser, the downloads are blocked because it would render the computer unusable for the next customer.

Choosing and Evaluating Sources

The Internet is a global entity with a highly diverse user population and information content. Library customers use it at their own risk. The Library cannot protect users from materials they may find offensive. In choosing sources to link to our home page, we follow generally accepted library practices. Beyond this, we do not accept responsibility for content found in an Internet source. We are not responsible for changes in content of the sources to which we link, nor for the content of sources accessed through secondary links. As with printed information, not all sources on the Internet provide accurate, complete, or current information. Users should evaluate Internet sources just as they do printed publications, questioning the validity of the information provided.

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 nor distribute electronic materials (including electronic mail, text, images, programs, or data) without the explicit permission of the copyright holder. Any responsibility for any consequences of copyright infringement lies with the user; the Library expressly disclaims any liability or responsibility resulting from such use.

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.

Wireless Policy

All Library rules, regulations, and policies concerning legal and acceptable use of computers and the Internet, as well as Library conduct policies, apply to patrons using our wireless service. The Staff is unable to provide technical support, including dealing with the patron's personal computer equipment. Patrons are responsible for their own equipment. The Library any liability or responsibility for lost, stolen or damaged equipment. No printing is available from the wireless network. You can save your documents to a personal saving device and print them from our wired stations. The Library is not liable for the consequences of wireless network use, including the transmission of computer viruses, loss of data or email, security breaches of personal/private information, or any harm resulting from the use of an unsecured server. ANY VIOLATION OF THE STATED LIBRARY POLICIES MAY RESULT IN RESTRICTION OF LIBRARY SERVICES, UP TO AND INCLUDING TERMINATION OF LIBRARY ACCESS.

Approved by the Dr. Grace O. Doane Alden Public Library Board of Trustees:

2004	**2013**	**February 2021**
2009	**February 2016**	**November 2026**