



Policy 5-8	Internet Acceptable Use Policy	Created: 4/2/2015 Revised: 10/6/2025 Approved: 6/17/2026*
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I. Purpose

This policy outlines acceptable use of Internet resources by the public, staff and volunteers in facilities operated by Jackson County Library Services (JCLS).

JCLS offers Internet access as part of its mission to connect everyone to information, ideas, and each other. Resources available on the Internet are integral to the services and collections available at JCLS libraries.

II. Introduction

JCLS provides computer equipment and Wi-Fi for public use in all branch locations and strives to provide a comfortable and welcoming environment for everyone. The internet offers access to a wealth of material that is personally, professionally, and culturally enriching to individuals of all ages. However, it also enables access to some material that may be offensive, disturbing, illegal, inaccurate, or incomplete. Users are encouraged to evaluate the validity and appropriateness of information accessed through the internet.

The library seeks to balance the rights of users to access information resources with the rights of users to be present in a public environment free from sounds and images that are disruptive or harassing to other library users or library staff. JCLS does not monitor and has no control over the information available over the Internet.

The library does have the authority to regulate behavior within its facilities, as outlined in JCLS' Rules of Conduct, and particularly if such behavior would jeopardize the health and safety of minors, or would result in the creation of a sexually hostile environment for staff and library users. Only those restrictions which are required to provide equitable access to library resources, prevent vandalism or illegal activity, avoid the creation of a sexually hostile environment, or which are needed to protect the health and safety of minors, will be imposed. Access to, use of, or dissemination of, constitutionally unprotected (legally obscene) speech is unacceptable in the library.

III. Policy Statement

It is the policy of Jackson County Library Services to:

- Comply with the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA).
- Prevent user access over its computer network to, or transmission of, obscene material via Internet, electronic mail or other forms of direct electronic communications.

- Prevent unauthorized access and other unlawful online activity.
- Prevent unauthorized online disclosure, use or dissemination of personal identification information regarding minors.

IV. Internet Filter & Privacy

All Library computers and Internet access provided at the library use a technology protection measure to block, filter, or otherwise protect against access to visual depictions that are child pornography, obscene, or harmful to minors. No filter can guarantee total success in this objective.

Under 18

Library cards for all patrons under the age of 18 are set to a higher filtering level. The following filter categories of information are blocked for patrons with the Under 18 filter: adult/mature content, child pornography, malicious outbound data/botnets, malicious sources, nudity, pornography, phishing, potentially unwanted software, proxy avoidance and violence/hate/racism.

18 And Up Only

According to CIPA, all adult library patrons must initially have filtered access to the Internet. To that end, library cards for all patrons 18 and older are set to the default filtering level "18 And Up Only." The following filter categories of information are blocked for patrons with the "18 And Up Only" filter: child pornography, malicious outbound data/botnets, malicious sources, phishing, potentially unwanted software, pornography, proxy avoidance.

The library's filter upholds the principles of intellectual freedom, allowing patrons who are 18 years of age or older to make their own choices regarding filtering.

V. Internet Acceptable Use Rules for All Users

Use of Library technology by every patron, staff member, or volunteer shall constitute that person's acknowledgment of, and agreement to abide by this policy, and are subject to JCLS's Rules of Conduct Policy.

- The Internet computer equipment and software provided by the library must be used as installed. Deletion, addition, or modification of installed hardware or software is not permitted.
- Users shall not disclose, use or disseminate personal identification information regarding minors without proper authorization.
- Users shall utilize the Library network for lawful activities only. They shall not use the network to cause harm to others or damage the property of others. They shall not intentionally upload, download or create computer viruses or other forms of malicious programming, attempt to harm or destroy equipment, manipulate the data of any other user, or seek unauthorized access to networks and systems, including so-called "hacking."
- Patrons are expected to adhere to all rules governing the use of the Internet in libraries, including the duration and frequency of sessions.

- Patrons who violate library policy regarding the use of the Internet or who behave in a disruptive manner will be asked to either modify their use appropriately or have their Internet usage access terminated. In some instances, patrons may be asked to leave the library.
- Library users should not have an expectation of privacy when using any form of electronic media through JCLS computers or wireless access points.
- The library is a public place and library staff have the authority to end an Internet session if material which is inappropriate for a public library setting is displayed. Patrons must stop viewing any site if a staff member asks you to stop.

JCLS has a usual practice of erasing all customer use records except those essential for library business operations. The library will release records including those related to internet usage only as required by law.

VI. Computer Use by Children

Access for all patrons under the age of 18 will be filtered in accordance with CIPA requirements. Filtering software may not block all material users find offensive. Parents or legal guardians are responsible for determining what materials are appropriate for use by the children and young adults for whom they are responsible. Consent given on the part of parents or legal guardians to visit the library constitutes acknowledgment by the parents or guardians that they have a responsibility for monitoring their child's use of all library resources, including the public computers.

VII. Wi-Fi Internet Acceptable Use Rules

Regardless of the wi-fi source, internet users inside the library or on library premises are subject to the library's Acceptable Use of the Internet rules, and JCLS's Rules of Conduct Policy. Virus protection through the wireless access points is the user's responsibility.

Specifically, as a wi-fi internet user, you must:

- Stop viewing any site that creates a hostile environment for other library users or staff if a staff member asks you to stop.
- Follow the rules of the websites you visit.
- Never harass others with printouts, images or messages.
- View and print only legal material and conduct only legal activity.
- Make appropriate choices about the sites you view when others are present, since the library is a public place that serves children as well as adults.
- Use sound-muffling headphones or mute sound to avoid disturbing others.

VIII. Use of Content from the JCLS Website

The JCLS Website contains a wide range of content, including materials that are in the public domain and materials that are protected by copyright. In cases where materials on the JCLS Website are protected by third party rights, a user is responsible for obtaining permission in order to use the materials in question.

The Library staff does not provide advice to users about which materials are protected by third party rights and which materials may be used freely, though staff may recommend resources to assist them in making that determination. It is a user's obligation to determine and satisfy copyright or other use restrictions when publishing or otherwise distributing materials from the Library's collections. Users are solely responsible for determining whether the use of any digital object requires the permission of any other person or entity and for paying any associated fees. If uncertain about the legal issues surrounding the use of digital objects, please consult an attorney.

IX. Termination of Use

JCLS may, in its sole discretion, terminate or suspend a user's access to internet services without notice and for violation of this policy or for other conduct which the library believes is unlawful or harmful to others. In the event of termination, use is no longer authorized, and JCLS will use any means possible to enforce this termination.

X. Reconsideration of Websites

Any resident of Jackson County may request the blocking or unblocking of a specific website using the Request for Reconsideration of Library Materials form. The website will be reviewed by professional library staff and the final decision will be the responsibility of the Library Director.

XI. Disclaimers

The Library assumes no responsibility for damage to an individual's computer or other property resulting from the use of the internet within its facilities. Any downloading or obtaining of material or data is done at the user's own risk. In addition, JCLS disclaims any and all responsibility or liability for the accuracy, reliability, and legality of materials found on its website.

In no event shall JCLS or any of its directors, employees, agents, or affiliated entities be liable for any direct, indirect, special, incidental, consequential, exemplary or punitive damages arising from, or directly or indirectly related to, the use of, or the inability to use, internet services or the content, materials and functions related thereto.

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