

COMPUTER USE AND INTERNET SAFETY

Finney County Public Library

Adopted: 03.28.2022 | Revised: 00.00.0000

As part of its mission to be the community's information center, Finney County Public Library provides free access to essential digital public services. By doing so, the Library supports the American Library Association's assertion that "[l]ibraries empower users by offering opportunities both for accessing the broadest range of information created by others and for creating and sharing information. Digital resources enhance the ability of libraries to fulfill this responsibility."

Essential digital public services provided by the Library include access to computers, the Internet, and basic software. In addition, the Library provides an unsecured wireless network for customers' use with their personal devices. All changes made or documents saved to any public access computer will be automatically deleted when the computer is rebooted or shut down.

Time limits on the use of computers and equipment, as well as bandwidth limits on wireless access, may be enforced to ensure that all patrons have the opportunity to use Finney County Public Library resources.

Users may not violate software license agreements or infringe on copyrighted material. United States Copyright Law: U.S. Code, Title 17 prohibits the unauthorized reproduction or distribution of copyrighted materials, except as permitted by the principle of "fair use." This includes most electronic information sources. Users may not copy or distribute electronic materials without the explicit permission of the copyright holder. Users are responsible for consequences of copyright infringement.

Users may not attempt to, or actually, modify the Finney County Public Library hardware, software or any configurations via Library workstations or any wireless network. This includes, but is not limited to, attempting or succeeding to evade or disable the Internet filtering software; the intentional propagation of computer viruses or worms; and "hacking" of any kind. Users may not interfere with the activities of the Library or its network in any way. Users may not attempt to intercept, monitor, disrupt, or impede other user's communications or to access or alter other user's data or software.

Users accept that the Library makes no representation or guarantee that computer or Internet services, including wireless service, will be uninterrupted, error-free, virus-free, timely, or secure, nor that any Internet content is accurate, reliable, or safe in any manner for download or any other purpose.

Use of the Library's hardware, software, Internet service, wireless network, and electronic information resources is entirely at the risk of the user. Neither Finney County nor the Finney County Public Library shall be liable for any damage that may occur to any computer, peripheral equipment,

device, or storage media; loss of data or confidential information; unauthorized access to or alteration of data transmission; and/or any other direct, indirect, special, incidental, consequential, or exemplary damages resulting from or arising out of use of the Library's Internet service, equipment, or other devices; wireless network, and/or electronic information resources or inability to use these services; or any other matter relating to these services.

The user agrees to hold the Library harmless from any claims, losses, damages, obligations, or liabilities relating to the use of Library computers, network, or other equipment, or related to the use of information obtained from the Library's electronic information system.

Patrons of Finney County Public Library shall be prohibited from invading the privacy of a computer user. Each patron must comply with the Library's behavior policy and should be considerate of all Library users and library staff.

Information resources available through the Internet exist beyond the scope of Finney County Public Library's Collection Development policy. Patrons should consider the source and timeliness of all information retrieved through the Internet. Finney County Public Library subscribes to several reputable databases that are available to our patrons.

Library computers are in a public area and information viewed on the screen may be visible to patrons of all ages. All users are asked to view content appropriate to a public space and respect the privacy of others. Finney County Public Library staff may ask users to take action to address the situation if the content viewed is inappropriate or other patrons express concern about the nature of the web browsing.

Patrons are not to use the equipment in the public library in an unauthorized manner as described in the Kansas Criminal Code. Misuse of library equipment will result in loss of privileges and may result in expulsion from the public library and prosecution under the state statute.

A user will not use a library computer to:

- access or display information that is "obscene" or "harmful to minors" as defined by Kansas laws;
- participate in any online venue (including but not limited to: email, chat rooms, social networking sites, or instant messaging) that uses information that is obscene as defined by Kansas law;
- compromise or threaten the safety and security of minors when using email, chat rooms, and other forms of direct electronic communications;
- disclose, use, and/or disseminate personal information that could threaten or create a vulnerability for a minor, for any other person, or for the library;
- attempt to gain unauthorized access to any data, computer, or network.

The Finney County Public Library complies with federal and state laws with a particular awareness of federal laws on the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) and the Neighborhood Children's Internet Protection Act (NCIPA), copyright (U.S. Code, Title 17), and Kansas laws relating to obscenity (K.S.A. 21-4301; 21-4301a, and 21-4301c). The Library and Library users must comply with these laws.

Specifically, as required by the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA), blocking shall be applied to visual depictions of material deemed obscene or child pornography, or to any material deemed harmful to minors. To provide the definition required by CIPA and NCIPA, the phrase "matter...inappropriate for minors..." used in the federal law is regarded as synonymous with the definition of obscenity in K.S.A. 21-4301, 21-4301a, and 21-4301c.

The Finney County Public Library will comply with CIPA and NCIPA regarding the requirement to use a Technology Protection Measure (filtering). All Library Internet computers will use a filter. However, this technology is not reliable and the Library cannot be held responsible for prohibited information that might be displayed or for useful information that may be blocked. Library staff members are not responsible for monitoring use of and content accessed by patrons of any age. Parents or guardians, not staff, are responsible for the information selected or accessed by their children or wards. Therefore, parents and guardians are advised to supervise children's Internet use.

Patrons who encounter websites which they believe should be blocked but which are not, or who are prevented from accessing websites which they believe should not be blocked may submit a complaint. This should be given in writing to the Finney County Public Library Director or senior staff member in charge and include the URL of the site in question and whether the request is to block or unblock the site in question. Complaints about enforcement of this policy or observed patron behavior which violate this policy shall also be submitted in writing to the Finney County Public Library Director or senior staff member in charge, providing as much detail as possible.

The American Library Association's Freedom to Read Statement and the Library Bill of Rights are adopted policy of the Board of Trustees and Staff of the Finney County Public Library.