



LOWER MACUNGIE LIBRARY  
inform • enrich • empower

## Computer / Internet Use Policy

### Computer Use

- It is the patron's responsibility to read the Lower Macungie Library's Computer/Internet use Policy before using computer services. These policies can be found at the library's Circulation Desk, on the library's website and when logging onto the public computers.
- Library users may not use the public access computers for unlawful purposes or to view prohibited content. Users of library computers are responsible for complying with library policy and guidelines.
- The parent/guardian of any child 8 years of age or under must provide supervision for that child while he/she is using the library computers. Supervision is defined as sitting beside the child and monitoring the child's behavior to ensure compliance with computer regulations and safety of the child.

Computers in the Children's Area are restricted for use by children ages 12 and under; the remaining computers are for general use.

- Patrons are expected to refrain from any activities that might damage or alter the machines, programs, stored files, and operating files. Patrons will be responsible for paying the costs of repairs to the hardware and software if their actions caused the damage.
- Computer use will be limited to 45-minute sessions.
- A daily guest pass is available for visitors from outside the area.
- Patrons who use computers on a regular basis will need to obtain a Lehigh Carbon Library Cooperative (LCLC) card.
- Patrons with more than \$5 in fines or fees will not be permitted to use a computer. Fines must be under \$5 for computer access.
- Use of the computer will be on a first-come, first-served basis. Patrons may call to reserve time on the computer.
- Library staff reserves the right to prioritize patron needs and allot time accordingly.
- Patrons are limited to programs and files approved for public use. Any

intrusion into private library files or programs will result in loss of computer privileges. Reinstatement of privileges is left to the discretion of the Executive Director.

- Patrons may bring in their own data CD or flash drive to access saved files that are approved for public use. Patrons may also save work in progress to a CD or flash drive. The library is not responsible for any corruption of data that may occur or for flash drives and other devices left in the library.
- Patrons are highly encouraged to routinely save materials to a personal external storage device during computer sessions. Patrons may temporarily save material to the Desktop; however, files or other data found on the hard drive will be deleted after the computer session expires and cannot be recovered. The library is not responsible for any loss of data during public computer use.
- Printing (black/white & color) is available from the public computers for a minimal fee.

## Internet Use

- Information available via the Internet may be protected by copyrights or trademarks; use of such information must not violate any copyright or trademark law.
- Because the Internet allows access to ideas, information, and commentary from sources around the world, the library cannot control its content. Therefore, individual users must accept responsibility for determining the validity and accuracy of information located on the Internet.
- In compliance with requirements of the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA), the library filters all computers with Internet access. Parents or legal guardians should guide their children in the use of the Internet and inform them about materials they should not use. Library staff will seek to limit exposure of children to materials of an explicit sexual nature\* through filtering of computers, monitoring use of Internet terminals when possible and intervening in online sessions when necessary. However, staff monitoring and filtering software do not offer absolute protections against the possibility that children may encounter sexually explicit and/or violent materials while online.
- Patrons are expressly prohibited from viewing sexually explicit material.\*It is a felony offense in the state of Pennsylvania "to display or cause to display any explicit sexual material...on any...viewing screen in such manner that the display is visible...in any...establishment...where minors, as part of the general public or otherwise, are or will probably be exposed to view all or any part of such materials." --Title 18 Penna. C.S. - Sect. 5903. Therefore, viewing of such material in the Library will not be permitted. Violation of this provision may result in the immediate termination of computer privileges.
- The Internet and its available resources may contain material of an obscene nature. Viewing of certain materials in the public library may be considered improper in time,

place, or manner. The display of information and images of an obscene nature are prohibited. Violation of this policy may result in the immediate termination of computer privileges.

- Patrons are not permitted to download any files or software that may make modifications to the computer (i.e. .exe files) or may be malicious in nature (i.e. virus, malware).
- The library reserves the right to suspend computer use or other library privileges or take other action as necessary for anyone who willfully violates library policies and procedures.

\*The definition of “explicit sexual materials” and “obscene” is found in the “Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, Title 18 § 5903, Obscene and other Sexual Materials and Performances”

### **Pennsylvania Obscenity Statute-18 Pa. C.S. 5903**

Pennsylvania State Law has set forth definitions of "obscenity" and what is "harmful to minors."

**"Obscene."** Any material or performance, if:

1. The average person applying contemporary community standards would find that the subject matter taken as a whole appeals to the prurient interest;
2. The subject matter depicts or describes in a patently offensive way, sexual conduct of a type described in this section; and
3. The subject matter, taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political, educational or scientific value.

**"Harmful to minors"** means the quality of any description or representation in whatever form, of nudity, sexual conduct, sexual excitement, or sadomasochistic abuse, when it:

1. predominantly appeals to the prurient, shameful, or morbid interest of minors and
2. is patently offensive to prevailing standards in the adult community as a whole with respect to what is suitable material for minors; and
3. taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political, educational or scientific value for minors.

*To preserve the ability to meet Library needs under changing conditions, the Lower Macungie Library Board reserves the right to modify, augment, delete or revoke any and all policies, practices and statements at any time without notice.*

**Approved by the Library Board August 6, 2014**

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