SSCHPL
Steger-South Chicago Heights Public Library

Internet Access Policy

The mission of the Steger-South Chicago Heights Public Library is to provide resources for lifelong learning, and by providing equal access to the Internet the library reaffirms this commitment to our patrons. This Internet Access Policy is compatible with the library's endorsement of the Library Bill of Rights and the Freedom to Read statements from the American Library Association. The library urges patrons to become informed consumers and carefully evaluate information obtained via the Internet. Information obtained from the Internet may not be accurate, reliable, current or always available. Certain information obtained via the Internet may be illegal or considered controversial or offensive by some patrons.

General Guidelines for Internet Use

- The library supports only library owned computer equipment. Installing or attempting to install any program on library equipment is prohibited.
- The library reserves the right to deny use of a computer to those patrons having excessive fines and or overdues.
- The library shall not be responsible for any unauthorized or illegal activity conducted over the Internet, nor shall it be responsible for any loss of data, damage or liability that may occur from files or programs downloaded from the Internet.
- Library staff may provide assistance to patrons in the use of library computers and or the Internet as time and staff knowledge permits. Staff members will assist patrons to input their personal information on the Internet, but they will not be legally responsible for any repercussions concerning the action.
- The staff will not provide assistance for online governmental programs, medical or legal matters, or taxes.
- There is a maximum of two patrons on any one public computer at a time, unless otherwise posted.
- The public computers automatically shut down 15 minutes prior to the library's closing.
- All printing is at the posted amount.
- Patrons may not bring in their own software to install on the library's computers.
- Patrons may not bring in their own paper for the printers.
- Information may not be stored on public computers.
- The settings of the computer may not be altered.
- Patrons may purchase flash/jump drives at the Front Desk for amount as posted (subject to availability).

Adult Internet Services

The Steger-South Chicago Heights Public Library uses an automated reservation system to register users for Internet Access. All patrons must read and click the "I Agree" button on the Internet Access Agreement Form in order to access the Internet.

The library charges adults a fee to access the Internet and the fee breakdown associated with the access is:

- Out of district library card holders or patrons without a library card – $2.00 per hour (or as posted)
- No charge for library card holders

The patron's time will not be prorated.

The reservation system allows 1 hour of computer time and if the patron needs extra time then they must click on the button to extend their computer use.

Patrons may continue to use the Internet past their allocated hour provided there is not a reservation for the computer.

Juvenile Internet Services
The Steger-South Chicago Heights Public Library uses an automated reservation system to register users for Internet Access. All patrons must read and click the "I Agree" button on the Internet Users Agreement Form in order to access the Internet.

The Steger-South Chicago Heights Public Library does not have filters or blocking software on any of the computers in the library, and parents/caregivers are solely responsible for the Internet information selected or accessed by children at the library. Parents are advised to supervise their children's Internet sessions.

Children under the age of 18 will not be charged for access to the Internet.

Privacy and Confidentiality
The library staff will not disclose patron's use of the Internet except pursuant to a valid court order or a subpoena authorized under federal, state or local law or if there is imminent danger to a patron or staff member.

Legal Use
Patrons may use the public computers for any purpose except those prohibited by federal, state or local law. Examples of unacceptable purposes may include but are not limited to:

- Harassment of other patrons or library staff
- Libel or slander
- Destruction of equipment, software, or data belonging to the library or other patrons
- Unauthorized copying of copy-righted material
- Displaying or disseminating sexually explicit or sexually suggestive material
- Violation of system security
- Disruptive behavior
- Use of the Internet in any way which violates licensing and payment agreements between the Steger-South Chicago Heights Public Library and database providers.

Consequences for any of these activities may include:

- Immediate termination of their Internet session
- Suspension of computer use and other library use privileges

- Notification of appropriate law enforcement officials
- Prosecution under the full extent of the law

Copyright
Materials obtained or copied on the public computers may be subject to copyrights laws which govern the making of reproductions of copyrighted works. A copyrighted work may not be copied without the permission of the owner unless the work falls under the "Fair Use" provision. Copyright violation may subject violators to an action for damages and/or injunction. The library is not responsible for ensuring that proper copyright protection measures are followed.

Public Wireless Access
The Steger-South Chicago Heights offers free Wi-Fi access to its patrons. The Wi-Fi is available to any device capable of accessing wireless Internet transmissions. Patrons who access the library's Wi-Fi signal must abide by the library's Internet Access Policy. The responsibility of connectivity rests with the patron and not the library. Staff may provide verbal technical support, but are not liable for any resulting issues. The staff is prohibited from making any physical contact with any patron's device.

The library cannot guarantee a Wi-Fi signal or that the entire public area will contact a Wi-Fi signal. There may be "dead zones" within the building.

The library will not guarantee that an electrical outlet will be available to patrons wishing to access the Wi-Fi network. Electrical outlets can be accessed providing they do not impede or block traffic in the library. Rearranging of tables and chairs is prohibited unless the director has given prior approval.

The Wi-Fi signal and access are unfiltered. Information sent to/from any device may be captured by anyone else with a wireless device and appropriate software.

The Steger-South Chicago Heights Public Library assumes no responsibility for the safety of devices or equipment used in connection to the library's Wi-Fi wireless access.

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