

We are pleased to provide internet access and computer technology to our patrons, but ask that you read and follow a few rules and regulations.

1. Patrons must have a current library card to use the internet. Computer stations must be "checked out" as with any other library materials. To use the internet, stop by the circulation desk to sign up for the computer of your choice. Not all computers in the library have internet capabilities. Check the signs and labels on each computer before you sign up for a time slot. The library assistant will ask for your library card which will be held while you are using a computer. You may sign up for a thirty-minute time slot, and continue unless there is someone else waiting to use the computer. When you are finished, you must stop at the circulation desk again to sign off from your computer and to pick up your library card. The library provides patrons with the ability to conduct word processing and desktop publishing, CD-ROM research, access to the online catalog, and more. Please respect time limits, as other patrons may be waiting to use the internet or other computer programs.

2. Patrons must be 12 or older to use the internet independently. An adult must accompany patrons under 12. The library will not use internet filtering software, so parents are encouraged to work closely with their children to help them choose internet materials wisely.

3. Patrons will be charged ten cents per page for all print outs to help the library defray the cost of paper. Please pay when you sign off from your computer.

4. No more than two people are permitted at each computer station. Our space is very limited.

5. Patrons are NOT permitted to use their own software or disks at the library. If you would like to save your work, ask for a disk at the circulation desk. They will be sold for fifty cents each. This will help prevent the transmission of viruses to the library computers and to your disks.

6. Because of our limited personnel, knowledgeable staff may not be available to help you with the computer. Library personnel can help you get started, but patrons are responsible for conducting their own internet searches. Library materials are available for more information.

7. Legal and Ethical Use: Illegal or inappropriate use of the internet will result in loss of privileges. Illegal use includes, but is not limited to: attempts to damage or alter equipment or software, violation of copyright laws or software license agreements, gaining unauthorized access to the library's or other networks, intentional propagation of computer viruses, and engaging in libel, slander, harassment, fraud, or any other illegal activity. Inappropriate use includes, but is not limited to the display of sexually explicit images or information, overuse of time limits, and overuse of printing capabilities. Patrons who fail to comply with time limits and who do not pay for all printed pages may have privileges revoked. Patrons conducting inappropriate behavior will receive a warning. If they are asked a second time, they will be asked to leave the computer, and their library record will be marked. If the patron conducts inappropriate use a third time, internet use privileges will be revoked. Patrons are asked to remain sensitive to the fact that they are in a public facility shared by people of all ages. In order to ensure a pleasant, efficient learning environment, the library asks that you refrain from displaying potentially offensive sounds and visuals.

8. E-mail: the Hellertown Library is currently unable to provide e-mail accounts to patrons.

9. Privacy: Hellertown Library supports patron's rights to privacy and confidentiality. However, electronic communication is not secure and networks can be susceptible to outside intervention. The library itself will not reveal information about an individual unless compelled to do so by court order. Disclaimer: The internet may contain material of controversial or offensive nature. The library cannot filter or censor the wide variety of information available. Therefore, parents of minor children must assume responsibility for the children's use of the internet. The library staff will make every effort to prevent children under 12 from using the internet without a parent. However, it is difficult to monitor internet use with a small library staff of mostly volunteers. Furthermore, the library is not responsible for the accuracy of information presented on the internet. Users need to be aware of the rapid changes and unpredictability of internet web sites, and be good information consumers. The library does not endorse any information available on the internet. The Hellertown Public Library assumes no responsibility for any damages arising from the use of its computer services. The undersigned acknowledges that he/she understands and agrees to abide by the policy set forth by the Hellertown Public Library's Computer and Internet Use policy, and agrees that the library assumes no liability for any loss, damage or injury arising from invasion of privacy in the user's computer accounts, programs, files, etc.