

Chariton Free Public Library Internet and Wi-Fi Policy

(Approved October 10, 2024)

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Internet Access

The Chariton Free Public Library provides access to a broad range of information sources, including those available through the Internet. The Internet is a global entity accessed by a highly diverse population seeking and providing a wide variety of content. Patron use of the Internet carries with it a responsibility to evaluate the quality and accuracy of the information accessed.

The Chariton Free Public Library does not utilize filtering software. The use in libraries of software filters to block constitutionally protected speech is inconsistent with the United States Constitution and federal law. Only the courts have the ultimate authority to determine what material is not constitutionally protected. The Library has no means or statutory authority to assure that only constitutionally protected material is accessed by the public.

The Chariton Public Library does not serve *in loco parentis* (in place of a parent). Librarians cannot act in the place of parents in providing supervision of children as they explore the Internet. The responsibility for what a minor reads or views rests with that minor's parent or legal guardian.

In the library setting, the possibility exists of inadvertent viewing of content on any screen, including a patron-owned device. Users should be aware that both audio and visual content from their device may cause feelings of discomfort for other patrons of various ages and sensibilities.

Library staff may request individuals cease to view or listen to content that threatens the safe and comfortable environment of the Library or interferes with the conduct of Library business. Library staff will assess patron complaints about content which can be seen or heard on any device being used in the Library building in accordance with the Library's Conduct Policy concerning visual and/or verbal harassment.

It is illegal to use the Library's devices to access, view, print, distribute, display, send, or receive material that violates federal or state laws, including those relating to obscenity, child pornography, or material harmful to minors, or to engage in criminal activity. Patrons who engage in unlawful activities online or by utilizing content obtained via the Internet while using one of the Library's devices, will have their access suspended and may be expelled from the building. Patrons who wish to object to or reverse a suspension or expulsion may submit an Appeal Form (available at the circulation desk) to the Library Board.

Chariton Public Library expressly disclaims any liability or responsibility arising from access to or use of information obtained through the Internet, or any consequences thereof. Chariton Public Library takes no responsibility for any consequences resulting from the use of personal information on the Library's devices. Patrons handling financial transactions or other activities that require confidentiality do so at their own risk. To preserve confidentiality, each user should end their own session before leaving the device.

Library Device Use

Any member of the public may use the Library's Public Access devices. The Library employs management software to administer logins and session length. Library policies exist to promote free access to content while maintaining a safe, comfortable environment conducive to the use of the Library by all members of the public.

Patrons who have outstanding overdue items on their card, may have their device access suspended until such issues are resolved.

The number of persons per station is limited to one, unless arrangements have been made with the Librarian.

Length of use is limited to 1 hour per session whenever a queue exists. Otherwise, daily access is unlimited.

Patron Device Use

Patrons may use their own devices in the Library to access the Internet via the Library's Wi-Fi only. No hardline connections of patron devices to the Library network are permitted.

The Library is not responsible for any loss of information or damage that may occur, either directly or indirectly, to any personal equipment or data.

Library staff may assist patrons with the use of their devices to the extent of their abilities, but will not provide detailed technical assistance.

Library Wireless Use

Chariton Public Library provides unfiltered Guest Wi-Fi to the public.

The Library does not require patrons to register or use a password to access the Wi-Fi.

The Library's Wi-Fi does not provide a secure connection. Patrons use the Library's Wi-Fi at their own risk.

There is no guarantee that a wireless connection can be made or maintained.

Patrons utilizing the Library's Wi-Fi must comply with the captive portal page (see below) and all other policies of the Chariton Public Library.

The Library reserves the right to terminate any wireless network connection in accordance with federal, state, and local laws, regulations and policies.

Patrons may print using the Library's Wi-Fi. Fees for printing are cited in the Library Operations Policy.

Captive Portal

The Chariton Public Library provides unfiltered Internet access on all of its public access devices. Unfiltered Wi-Fi is provided (without encryption or password) throughout the Library. The Chariton Public Library Internet and Wi-Fi Policy applies to all devices connected to the Library network, whether it is a Library device or a patron's personal device.

Library staff may request individuals cease to view or listen to content that threatens the safe and comfortable environment of the Library or interferes with the conduct of Library business. Library staff will assess complaints about content in accordance with the Library's Conduct Policy concerning visual and/or verbal harassment.

It is illegal to use the Library's devices to access, view, print, distribute, display, send, or receive material that violates federal or state laws, including those relating to obscenity, child pornography, or material harmful to minors, or to engage in criminal activity.

The Library is not responsible for any device damage, malicious content, data loss or loss of privacy users may incur while using our Wi-Fi network. Patrons using the Library's Wi-Fi must comply with all policies of the Chariton Public Library.