

The Emmet O'Neal Library

Computer Use Mission Statement

In fulfilling the mission of the Emmet O'Neal Library to support educational, informational and recreational goals of the citizens of Mountain Brook, the Emmet O'Neal Library endeavors to develop quality collections, resources and services designed to meet local needs. It is toward this end that the Emmet O'Neal Library offers computer resources on publicly-accessible workstations.

Acceptable Use

Users of the Emmet O'Neal Library assume responsibility for using computer workstations in accordance with Library policy and local, state, and federal laws. The user, or the parent/legal guardian of a minor, is responsible for his or her own session at all times. The Emmet O'Neal Library reserves the right to end a computer session if it disrupts library services or involves user behavior that violates Library policy or local, state, or federal laws.

Among the uses that are considered unacceptable and which constitute a violation of this policy are the following:

1. Uses that violate the law or encourage others to violate the law. Transmitting of offensive or harassing messages; offering for sale or use any substance or use of which is prohibited by law; viewing, transmitting or downloading pornographic materials; uses that are harmful to minors; downloading or transmitting confidential, information, or copyrighted materials. The term "harmful to minors" is defined by the Communications Act of 1934 (47 USC Section 254 [h][7]), as meaning:
 - any picture, image, graphic image file or other visual depiction that taken as a whole and with respect to minors, appeals to a prurient interest in nudity, sex, or excretion;
 - depicts, describes, or represents in a patently offensive way with respect to what is suitable for minors;
 - an actual or simulated sexual act or sexual contact, actual or simulated normal or perverted sexual acts, or a lewd exhibition of the genitals;
 - taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value.

Alabama State Laws:

- Dissemination or public display of obscene matter is a misdemeanor in Alabama. Code of Alabama 13A-12-200.3.

- Dissemination or public display of obscene matter containing visual reproduction of person less than 17 years of age involved in obscene acts is a Class B felony in Alabama. Code of Alabama 13A-12-191.
 - Violation of the above State ordinances 13A-12-200.3 and 13A-12-191 may subject you to loss of library privileges or criminal prosecution.
 - Copies obtained from the Internet may be subject to copyright law. Violation of the law may subject you to an action for damages and/or an injunction.
2. Uses that cause harm to others or damage to property. Engaging in defamation; uploading virus or other harmful form of programming or vandalism; participating in "hacking" activities or any form of unauthorized access.
 3. Uses that jeopardize the security of the computer network or other networks on the Internet. Disclosing or sharing the user's library card password with others; impersonating another user; using one's own software programs on the Library's computers unless otherwise designated; altering the Library's computer settings; connecting equipment (i.e. laptops, PCs, wireless access points) to the network; damaging or modifying computer equipment or software.
 4. Uses that compromise the safety and security of minors when using e-mail and other forms of direct electronic communications. Minors may not disseminate private information about themselves or others. This includes giving out credit card and Social Security numbers and arranging without the permission of a parent/legal guardian any face-to-face meetings with others they have "met" on the computer network or Internet.
 5. Uses that are for commercial or profit-making purposes; for mass mailings or chain letters; or to harass, abuse, or threaten another individual.

Internet Content Filtering

The host site for Internet access at the Emmet O'Neal Library is the Jefferson County Library Cooperative (JCLC.) JCLC is the countywide, non-profit organization dedicated to providing Internet access and many other services to 41 public libraries around Jefferson County. To comply with the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) requirement for federal funds (e.g., e-rate) JCLC filters public and staff Internet Access.

No filtering service is completely effective, so patrons use the Internet at their own discretion and must evaluate the validity, usefulness and appropriateness of the information found. Since the library computers on which the public can access the Internet are publicly located and shared by library users of all ages, backgrounds,

beliefs and sensibilities, individuals are asked to consider this when accessing potentially controversial information and images.

Waiver

The Emmet O'Neal Library cannot guarantee privacy for individuals using electronic resources, as the Internet is not secure. While the Emmet O'Neal Library has adopted filtering policies, we assume no responsibility for damages arising from any use of the library's connections to the Internet.

The Emmet O'Neal Library assumes no responsibility and no liability for any loss or damage incurred by anyone using the library's computer resources. This includes any loss or harm incurred by a patron from transmitting any personal or financial information across the library's network or the Internet.

The Emmet O'Neal Library is not responsible for equipment malfunction, loss or damage to user disks or "jump or flash" drives, data, or electronic transactions of any kind.

Indemnification

Users agree to indemnify, defend, and hold harmless the Emmet O'Neal Library, its employees, and agents from any claim, demand, liability, cause of action, suit, judgment, or expense (including attorney's fees), arising from any use of the Library's computer equipment, network, phone lines, wireless service, or Internet connection.

Session Time Limits

The Emmet O'Neal Library limits computer sessions to two hours. If there are no patrons waiting for a computer, a library staff member may override the time limit or begin a new session for a patron. Renewal is not guaranteed, however, so patrons should be aware of the time limit and save their work accordingly.

The computers at the Emmet O'Neal Library automatically become unavailable for the last 15 minutes that the library is open. Patrons should save their work accordingly.

Failure to Comply

The Emmet O'Neal Library reserves the right to require individuals to discontinue computer use if observed violating any element of the acceptable use policy.

Failure to comply with this policy may result in the forfeiture of the user's right to access the computers at the Emmet O'Neal Library.

The first offense will result in an official warning by library staff. The official warning is a verbal warning by library staff and documentation by the staff for future reference.

A second offense within a one-year period will result in loss of computer privileges at the Emmet O'Neal Library for a period of six months. The patron's library card will be flagged to prevent computer use and the patron's name will be added to list of patrons prohibited from computer use.

Any further offenses within a one-year period will result in a one-year loss of computer privileges. The patron's library card will be flagged to prevent computer use and the patron's name will be added to list of patrons prohibited from computer use.

Adopted May, 2008