

INTERNET POLICIES

To fulfill its mission, Talcott Free Library provides access to a broad range of information resources including those on the Internet. Information and resources on the Internet enhance those already held in the Library and often go beyond what is locally available. The Library makes this service available as part of its mission to inform, educate, and provide cultural enrichment to people of all ages throughout its service area.

Access to the Internet is compatible with the Library's endorsement of the Library Bill of Rights and its interpretations and the Freedom to Read statement. Internet access is also compatible with the Library's materials selection policy, long-range plan goals and strategies, and role as a government documents depository. Length of usage and accessibility to these computers will be determined if others are waiting to use computers.

Library staff will provide assistance with Internet use within the guidelines established in reference procedures but cannot offer personal instruction. Formal instruction or information about the Internet may be offered by the Library at designated times.

Users may not add, delete or modify the equipment or programs in any way. Users must comply with all local, state and federal laws while using the Internet at the library. Users who violate any laws (including, but not limited to, those concerning copyright, fraud, privacy or obscenity), while using the library's Internet access, may have their computer privileges revoked.

Talcott Free Library does not monitor and has no control over the information accessed through the Internet and cannot be held responsible for its content. Users are cautioned that the accuracy, completeness and currency of information found on the Internet vary widely. Users should use critical judgment

in relying on information found on the Internet. The Library assumes no liability for any damage or injury arising from the use of Internet resources accessed from the library.

As with other library information sources, all Internet resources accessible through the Library are provided equally to all Library users and treated with confidentiality. Some of the material at these sites may be considered controversial or inappropriate for children. Parents or legal guardians, not Library staff, are responsible for supervising Internet use by their children.

Internet Filtering Policy

In accordance with the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA), some websites may be blocked due to a third party filter. All Talcott Free Library computers must comply with CIPA in order to qualify for the E-rate program due to their accessibility to minors. Please see more information below.

Children's Internet Protection Act

The Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) was enacted by Congress in 2000 to address concerns about children's access to obscene or harmful content over the Internet. CIPA imposes certain requirements on schools or libraries that receive discounts for Internet access or internal connections through the E-rate program – a program that makes certain communications services and products more affordable for eligible schools and libraries. In early 2001, the FCC issued rules implementing CIPA and provided updates to those rules in 2011.

What CIPA requires

Schools and libraries subject to CIPA may not receive the discounts offered by the E-rate program unless they certify that they have an Internet safety policy that includes technology protection measures. The protection measures must block or filter Internet access to pictures that are: (a) obscene; (b) child pornography; or (c) harmful to minors (for computers that are accessed by

minors). Before adopting this Internet safety policy, schools and libraries must provide reasonable notice and hold at least one public hearing or meeting to address the proposal.

Schools and libraries subject to CIPA are required to adopt and implement an Internet safety policy addressing:

- Access by minors to inappropriate matter on the Internet;
- The safety and security of minors when using electronic mail, chat rooms and other forms of direct electronic communications;
- Unauthorized access, including so-called "hacking," and other unlawful activities by minors online;
- Unauthorized disclosure, use, and dissemination of personal information regarding minors; and
- Measures restricting minors' access to materials harmful to them.

Wireless Policy

The wireless network is only available during normal library hours. The wireless network will shut off automatically when the library closes.

Security Issues

Once you login, all further communications are passed through the Internet without encryption. We cannot guarantee the security of any personal information submitted over the wireless connection after you login.

Special Notes

In accordance with the Child Information Protection Act (CIPA), wireless web browsing must comply with our Internet policy. To help enforce this policy, all wireless computers are filtered.

Use of file sharing programs is not allowed.

The wireless service is only for web surfing. The wireless network does not support the use of POP3, IMAP or other e-mail services. If you need to check your e-mail, please do so from the web.

If you normally use a different Wi-Fi network (with a different SSID) your computer may not find our network automatically.

Only 802.11n (compatible with b, g and n wireless cards) is available. Bluetooth, and other wireless protocols are not supported.

Only HTTP and HTTPS communication to standard ports (80, 443) is supported. FTP, POP, and nonstandard HTTP and HTTPS ports cannot be used with the service.