

INTERNET POLICY

Approved by Board 10/18/07; Revised 10/16/2014; Revised 6/20/19; Revised 12/17/20

The goal of the South Country Library is to meet the informational, educational, cultural and recreational needs and interests of its diverse population through books and other formats. In keeping with this mission, the Library provides users in the library with access to the Internet. The following rules govern patron use of the library's internet service:

1. The Internet is an unregulated electronic medium and therefore may contain material and experiences of a controversial nature. The Library stresses that it is always the individuals' responsibility and the parents' responsibility to monitor their or their child's or young adult's internet activities within the Library. The South Country Library assumes no responsibility for the content, quality, accuracy or currency of any information accessed via the Internet.
2. Internet use is available to South Country Library adults, young adults and children at terminals in each of these respective departments. Please see a staff member within each department to obtain procedures for accessing the internet and time/sessions allotment. At South Country Library, adults will be defined as patrons that are 18 years of age and older. Young adults will be defined as patrons that are in 6th grade through 12th grade and are under the age of 18. Children will be defined as patrons aged birth through 5th grade.
3. South Country Library reserves the right to withdraw permission to use the internet at the library if a patron acts in manner that is not consistent with, or that is in violation of library policies.
4. Session time allotments, and permitted number of sessions per day, may need to be adjusted at the discretion of Library staff to meet the changing needs of the public computer users.
5. Library card use, including the privilege to access the Internet via Library computer terminals, is for the sole use of the patron named on the card.
6. Printing in the Library can be sent to either a black & white or a color printer. There is \$1.00 of free printing per day for South Country Library card holders. There will be a 10-cent charge for each additional black & white pages and a 50-cent charge for color which may be purchased at the Patron Services desk. Guests who are accessing the library internet with a guest pass are not eligible for free prints. The guest pass may be brought to the Patron Services desk to purchase pages. Unused prints will remain on Library cards as a credit. Unused prints on a guest pass expire at the end of the business day and are non-refundable. In general, patrons may not bring paper from home. Patrons are responsible for unintended multiple copies.
7. While staff are more than happy to assist patrons with the computers, technology and use of the internet, the following limitations apply: **1.)** In order to respect the privacy of patrons and also to protect the library from involvement in personal matters, staff cannot assist with filling out any private information such as social security numbers, credit history, sensitive medical or financial information, and other confidential matters. **2.)** Staff have discretion to limit the amount of time spent helping with technological tasks. If they need to cut off assistance due to length of time, they will do their best to refer patrons to other sources of assistance or provide them with a better time to return for help. Staff will provide guidance but cannot type out documents for patrons, fill in online applications, or other similar tasks.

8. Library technical support personnel are not permitted to do any computer work for South Country patrons outside the Library.
9. Criminal and illegal acts, including, but not limited to, viewing obscene materials (as defined in New York State Penal Law Section 235.00) and violation of United States copyright law are not permitted and may lead to temporary or permanent suspension of computer privileges.
10. Downloading programs onto Library computers is prohibited without prior permission from Library staff.
11. All public computers have "hard-drive lock" installed which automatically clears all changes, including browser history, upon session log-out. It automatically deletes saved files upon reboot.
12. All computers automatically shut down 10 minutes before closing.