

Groton Public Library (GPL) Computer Use Policy

The following information will be included in the revised GPL Computer Use Policy.

Filtering

As required by the Children's Internet Protection Act ("CIPA"), in order to comply with the requirements of the Act and to remain eligible for certain federal funding, the GPL is implementing software filtering on all of its Internet-accessible computer terminals. The software installed on Internet-accessible computers at the GPL protects against access to visual depictions of obscenity, child pornography, and, in the case of persons under the age of 17 years, materials that are "harmful to minors." Users should be aware, however, that all currently available filtering software results in a degree of both "underblocking" (i.e., permitting access to certain material that falls within the foregoing categories) and "overblocking" (i.e., denying access to certain constitutionally protected material that does not fall within the foregoing categories). The GPL has attempted to select filtering software that best complies with CIPA while providing GPL users with the broadest possible access to constitutionally protected speech and information. The GPL cannot and does not guarantee that the filtering software will block all obscenity, child pornography, or materials that are harmful to minors. Nor can the GPL guarantee that the filtering software will not restrict access to sites that may have legitimate research or other value. In order to help address the overblocking problem and to enhance users' access to constitutionally protected speech and information, the GPL requests that all users, both adults and minors, contact the GPL at grotonpubliclibrary.net (or at such other contact point as the GPL shall designate from time to time) to request unblocking of an incorrectly blocked site.

Access by Minors

Parents or legal guardians must assume responsibility for deciding which GPL resources are appropriate for their own children. Parents or legal guardians should guide their children in use of the Internet and inform them about materials they should not use. While the GPL affirms and acknowledges the rights and responsibilities of parents and guardians to monitor and determine their children's access to GPL materials and resources, including those available through the Internet, the GPL has taken certain measures designed to assist in the safe and effective use of these resources by all minors.

CIPA Policy Provisions to be added

Filtering will be provided for all internet enabled computers used by students, patrons and staff.

Filtering will be disabled only for bona fide research or other lawful purposes.

Minors will be educated, supervised and monitored with regard to safe and appropriate online activities.

Safe and secure use by minors of direct electronic communications (including e-mail, chat rooms and instant messaging) will be assured.

Unauthorized online access, including "hacking" and other unlawful activities, is prohibited.

Unauthorized disclosure, use, and dissemination of personal identification information regarding minors is prohibited.

The GPL reserves the right to amend this policy at any time to maintain CIPA compliance. Further changes may be made from time to time if deemed appropriate by the GPL Board of Trustees

CURRENT RULES FOR COMPUTER USE AT THE GROTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

1. Sign in **AND** out in the binder at the circulation desk.
2. Patron must be a patron in good standing of an FLLS library with no outstanding fines (more than \$5), long overdue items, or lost materials.
3. The usage period is 60 minutes. If there is nobody waiting to use a computer, you may ask the clerk on duty to extend your time. During high demand times, non-recreational users will receive priority over recreational users.
4. Patrons of all ages may use a computer. Children and Young Adults (ages 0-17) must have a parent/guardian sign for permission at the circulation desk.
5. The computers are equipped not to allow saving to the hard drive. However, they are equipped with USB ports. Patrons are encouraged to bring in a flash drive (also known as thumb drive or jump drive) to save their work.
6. Any audible language or visible behavior which is rude or abusive will not be tolerated.
7. Patrons must be aware that content on the internet may not be accurate, complete, unbiased, or current. The library is not responsible for internet content. Patrons should critically evaluate the sources they find.
8. Patrons must not intentionally develop nor use programs that infiltrate a computer or operating system and/or damage or alter the software components of a local or remote computer or operating system.
9. Patrons must not intentionally seek information, obtain copies of, modify files of, other data, or passwords belonging to other users.
10. No software may be installed onto the library's computers.
11. The computers must not be used for illegal or criminal purposes. Examples include slander, libel, harassment, or copyright violations.
12. Patrons must respect the privacy and sensibilities of others. Display or printing of extremely violent, sexually explicit or pornographic material of an essentially prurient nature is inappropriate for a public environment is prohibited. Patrons not complying will lose internet privileges for 30 days after the first infraction. An appeal may be made to the Library's Board of Trustees.
13. Violation of rules 8-12 will be grounds for revocation of computer privileges and may result in suspension of library privileges and/or criminal charges.