

Internet and Computer Use at the Porterville Public Library

Our Purpose

The Porterville Library provides free public computer access to the Internet to meet the information needs of our users and to provide residents with opportunities for learning about information technology. The Library has no control over the quality or accuracy of information found on the Internet. Users should critically evaluate its content.

Our Internet Access Policy

Consistent with Board of Supervisors Policy, federal and state law, all workstations in all branches offer only filtered access to all library customers of all ages. The Children's Internet Protection Act requires libraries such as the Porterville Public Library and the other members of the San Joaquin Valley Library System, which receive discounts on Internet connections and service to block or filter for all users' visual depictions that are obscene or child pornography, and to filter, for minors, depictions which are harmful to minors.

Internet filters are imperfect. They may block some constitutionally protected material, and they may fail to block some unlawful materials. A 2003 U.S. Supreme Court decision authorizes disabling of the filter for lawful use by adults. Adults 18 years and older may request Library staff to disable the filter for lawful purposes at a specific workstation for a specific session of use. However, if the nature of the content being viewed on the Library workstation disturbs other Library users, the viewer will be asked to cease, to use a privacy screen, or be moved to another workstation. See also the Library's Rules of Conduct. Internet users of all ages may ask the Library to evaluate sites they believe are inappropriately blocked by the filter. The Library will also consider requests by Internet users to block websites believed to display unlawful images.

Filters do not remove all potentially objectionable materials found on the Internet. Parents and guardians are strongly encouraged to guide their children's use of the Internet and may wish to use search tools that provide their own additional filters.

Internet users are entitled to privacy. As with other library materials, Library staff do not monitor what any user views or reads over the Internet.

Thank you for your cooperation!