

Alabama Public Library Service (APLS)

Internet Safety and Public Use Policy

MISSION

The mission of the Alabama Public Library Service (APLS), as the State Library Agency, is to support an educated citizenry through equal access to excellent educational, recreational, and cultural information sources.

RESPONSIBILITIES

The Alabama Public Library Service provides enhanced accessibility to ideas and information through the Internet at designated Public Access terminals for its patrons. The Internet takes you outside the walls of APLS to provide access to information that you may find valuable; however not all Internet resources are reliable or current and may contain controversial, inaccurate, or inappropriate material.

DISCLAIMERS

By providing access, APLS disclaims any warrant as to the information's accuracy, timeliness, authoritativeness, usefulness or fitness for a particular purpose. APLS assumes no responsibility for damages, losses, costs or expenses arising from the use of access to the Internet.

In compliance with the Children's Internet Protection Act, filtering is installed and enforced at APLS. Filtering limits the amount of pornographic or obscene materials available on the Internet; however be aware that no filtering technology is completely effective. Therefore APLS will have no liability for damages related to the operation of, or failure of, the filtering technology installed, or for its circumvention by patrons. Alabama Law 13a-12-200.3 specifically prohibits the public dissemination of obscene material.

COMPUTER USE

The Alabama Public Library Service does not monitor and has no control over the information accessed through the Internet and cannot be held responsible for its content. Patrons use the Internet at their own discretion. Parents and guardians of minor children, not the Alabama Public Library Service, are responsible for their children's use of the Internet through the library connection. Illegal activities or any other activities intended to disrupt network services or equipment are prohibited. Materials printed or electronically transmitted on this computer network may be subject to copyright laws and may not be duplicated electronically or in printed form without permission of the copyright owner unless the proposed use falls within the definition of fair use. Software and information downloaded from any source may contain computer viruses; therefore APLS is not responsible for damage to users' disks or computers or for any loss of data, damage or liability that may occur from use of computers at APLS. APLS staff must check any disk used in APLS computers for viruses.

Unacceptable Uses of APLS Computers

Examples of prohibited usage include, but are not limited to:

- To violate the law or encourage others to violate the law including:
 - Transmission of offensive, threatening or harassing messages
 - Offering for sale or use any substance which is prohibited by law – using PCs for any illegal purpose.
 - Viewing, transmitting, printing or downloading pornographic material or materials that encourage others to violate the law
 - Downloading or transmitting confidential information, or copyrighted materials.
 - Violating U.S. Copyright Law or software licenses. U.S. Copyright law (Title 17, U.S. Code) prohibits unauthorized reproduction or distribution of copyright materials, except as permitted.
- To access obscene or pornographic sites or engage in any activity that is deliberately offensive.
- To display material that is harmful to minors, or assist minors in accessing such material.
- To engage in hacking or other forms of illegal and unethical online activities.
- To violate the privacy of any person or represent oneself as another person.
- To use any of a patron's personal software, programs, or hardware.
- To interfere with, jeopardize the security of, or alter APLS computers, networks, or any of its hardware or software including attempts to bypass network security and installing or duplicating any software.
- Damaging or destroying equipment, software, or data belonging to APLS including adding, changing or deleting files.
- To access chat sites – APLS does not support chat functions.

VIOLATION RESPONSE

User's access to APLS' computer network and Internet is a privilege, not a right. Violations may result in loss of the user's right to Internet Access and/or Library privileges.

Adopted by the Alabama Public Library Service Executive Board on March 18, 2004

APLS HOMEPAGE – <http://www.statelibrary.alabama.gov/>