

Computer Use Policy

Approved August 2003

Revised October 2003, October 2004, November 2004, July 2007, April 2008

The Groton Public Library provides computers for a variety of uses from accessing the Internet and online databases to word processing. The library cannot be held responsible for content accessed on the Internet, as not all Internet sources provide accurate, complete or current information.

1. Anyone with a Groton Public Library card or legal identification may sign in to use the library's computers at the Information Desk or Children's Room desk.
2. Computers in the Children's Room are only for the use of children up to grade 5, and their parent or caregiver. Children under the age of 6 must be under the direct supervision of a parent or caregiver when using a computer.
3. A patron may use a library computer for one half-hour a day and if, at the end of the half-hour, there is no one waiting, he/she may continue using it until someone else requests it. Reservations may be made in advance, and they will be held until 10 minutes after the reserved starting time.
4. Changing settings or otherwise modifying a library computer's configuration is not permitted.
5. Unethical or illegal use of computers or other electronic devices in the library, and/or accessing obscene material as defined by M.G.L. c. 272, § 31*, is prohibited. Users in violation of this policy will have their privileges suspended.
6. Any Groton Public Library patron with a blocked status (for overdue materials or unpaid fines) may lose library computer use privileges until the account is cleared.
7. Computer users must be respectful of others. Disruptive or disrespectful behavior will result in a suspension of library computer use privileges or removal from the library. The Technology Room and the rest of the upper level is a quiet area. Headphones are provided to allow users to listen to audio files.
8. Content filters will not be installed on any GPL computer systems. When a child uses a computer the parent or caregiver is responsible for overseeing what is accessed.
9. Printing cost: the first 3 pages are free; each additional page is 5 cents.

*Massachusetts General Laws c. 272, § 31

"Obscene", matter is obscene if taken as a whole it

- 1) appeals to the prurient interest of the average person applying the contemporary standards of the county where the offense was committed;
- 2) depicts or describes sexual conduct in a patently offensive way; and
- 3) lacks serious literary, artistic, political or scientific value.