

Computer & Internet Use Policy

Computer Access

Library computers are generally available first-come, first-served, in one-hour increments, although this time may continue to be extended in hour increments if there is no one waiting for computer access.

If a patron has a task that they reasonably believe will take longer than an hour to complete, staff may immediately grant an extended session, if they believe that the extended session will not disrupt regular library operations or other patrons' access.

Library computers will provide a warning five minutes before the end of the session. If the session timer is allowed to expire, the computer will restart and any data that has not been saved to removable media or cloud storage will be lost.

The Library does not maintain information on the use of specific Internet resources by members of the public and will not release information except as required by law or for the proper operation of the library.

Computer & Internet Use

The use of Library computers for the transmission, dissemination, and/or duplication of copyrighted material is regulated by state and federal laws and by the Library's Rules of Conduct.

Patrons may not corrupt, alter, damage, or otherwise compromise library equipment or software. Patrons may not send, receive, view, or download any illegal material.

The library is not responsible for damage to storage media, loss of data, or damage or liability that may occur as a result of patrons' use or misuse of Library computers.

Violations of the Computer & Internet Use policy or the Rules of Conduct will result in loss of access to Library computers.

Computer Assistance

Patrons using the Library's computers are expected to understand the basics of computer use. Library staff are not able to offer extensive assistance or in-depth training. If time permits, staff may help with getting users started, basic computer problems, and suggestions on effective Internet searching.

Regularly scheduled, one-on-one technology help sessions are available at the Crisfield and Princess Anne Libraries for patrons who need in-depth assistance with a computer-related task.

Internet Access by Minors

Supervision of a child's use of the Internet is the responsibility of a parent or legal guardian. Children 10 years old or younger must be accompanied by an adult when using Library computers.

Guest Passes

Guest passes are available for visitors without library cards.

Internet Filtering

The Somerset County Library System adheres to the Children's Internet Protection Act. Public computers are equipped with filtering software that blocks access to sites that are (a) obscene, (b) child sexual abuse material, or (c) harmful to minors, as defined by federal law. However, patrons should be aware that filtering software is not perfect and user discretion is advised.

Library staff may terminate a user's computer time if the user is bypassing or attempting to bypass the filtering software.

Wi-Fi

The Library provides publicly accessible Wi-Fi, with networks inside and outside of all Library branches. Protected Access networks are also available in Crisfield and Princess Anne.

Wi-Fi networks are generally available 24 hours a day, although availability and signal quality may be affected by factors beyond the Library's control.

The library is not responsible for the privacy of information transferred over its network.

Patrons are responsible for ensuring that their devices have adequate security protection against viruses and other malware. The Library assumes no responsibility for damage, theft,

or loss of a customer's equipment, software, data, or other personal property brought into or used at the Library's facilities.

Printing & Copying

Patrons may print, for a fee, from Library computers. The Wi-Fi network does not provide access to printing, but patrons may submit documents at the same fee to the front desk using the Wireless Printing link on the Library's website.

Catalog Computers

Catalog computers at the Crisfield and Princess Anne Library are intended only for the search of the library's catalog.

Early Literacy Stations

Early Literacy Stations from AWE Learning are available at the Crisfield and Princess Anne Libraries. The Stations have a broad range of educational software for children ages 2 to 8 and do not connect to the Internet.

Laptops & Tablets

The Crisfield and Princess Anne Libraries own laptops and tablets that are intended for use in computer and STEM instruction. When not in use for a library program, devices may be lent to patrons for in-library use only.

Library Website

The library website at somelibrary.org is designed and maintained by library staff. The library assumes responsibility only for the information provided on its website. While the library makes reasonable efforts to keep third-party links up-to-date, links are not endorsements of the content of any outside site.

Fees

There is no fee for the use of library technology. Fees may be charged to recoup expenses incurred by the library by patrons using printers, copiers, or other equipment.

The fee is \$0.20 per page for black & white copies or printouts and \$0.50 per page for color. The fee is calculated for each side of the page.

The library will laminate documents for patrons at a cost of \$1 per page.

The library will fax for \$1 per page.

The library sells headphones for patron use at \$2.50 each and flash drives for \$5 each.