



Western Sullivan Public Library

EQUIPMENT AND COMPUTER USE POLICY

The Western Sullivan Public Library (WSPL) provides educational, informational and recreational resources to patrons of all ages, cultures, abilities and interests. It offers access to information of all types in a wide range of formats, including electronic. The Internet is viewed as yet another tool or resource used to provide information beyond the confines of the Library's own collection. This technology allows access to ideas, information and commentary from around the world. It is compatible with the Library's endorsement of the American Library Association's (ALA) Library Bill of Rights, the ALA's Library Bill of Rights in Cyberspace, the Freedom to Read Statement, and the policies, goals and objectives of the WSPL.

EQUIPMENT LENDING:

The Western Sullivan Public Library offers a variety of electronic devices to our patrons, some of which are available for borrowing. The Director of the library will approve which equipment is suitable for circulation. Patrons choosing to borrow a device from the Western Sullivan Public Library will be required to complete the *Equipment Borrowing Agreement* before checking the item out.

Only registered patrons of the Western Sullivan Public Library, 18 years or older, may borrow select devices upon presentation of their valid library card, in good standing, and current ID. Other forms of identification may be required at the time of check out. Patrons will be responsible for damaged or lost devices and will be assessed the replacement fee as determined by the Western Sullivan Public Library. The library reserves the right to suspend borrowing privileges to anyone who abuses equipment or is repeatedly late in returning devices.

COMPUTER USE:

Internet terminals are available to library users during normal library hours. Users must be finished fifteen minutes before closing. Internet terminals are available on a first-come, first-serve basis for a time limit as determined by the Library Director. Internet users are required to read and accept these Equipment and Computer Use Policies before gaining access to the Internet. By selecting the "accept" option on the computer, the user is agreeing to abide by WSPL's policies. If the "decline" option is selected access to the Internet will be denied. Children under the age of 12 will need to be accompanied by an adult when using the Internet. For patrons under 18, a parent or guardian will need to give consent for Internet use by signing a permission slip in the presence of a library staff member. A parent/guardian who signs the Internet Permission Form agrees to be responsible for a minor's usage.

The library does not offer email accounts. Computers may not be altered for any purpose, nor may other programs be accessed or personal software be used in conjunction with the library's hardware. Outside software may not be loaded onto public access computers.

INTERNET USE:

Resources at the library, including Internet services, are provided equally to all users. The library cannot censor access to materials or protect other users from offensive information. The WSPL has no control over Internet resources and contents; therefore, it assumes no responsibility for the quality, accuracy, or timeliness of any information obtained from the Internet. Internet computers, including public access computers, as well as wireless usage, may not be used for illegal or unacceptable purposes, including, but not limited to: harassment of other users; libeling or slandering other users; destruction or damage of equipment, software or data belonging to the library or other users; disruption or unauthorized monitoring



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of electronic communications; unauthorized copying of copyright-protected material; or “hacking”, unauthorized access and all other unlawful activities. Library policy does not allow disclosure, use or dissemination of personal identification of internet users to unauthorized parties. Parents/guardians are advised that the library is not responsible for the safety and security of minor users.

In light of the above statements, WSPL still assumes the responsibility for maintaining a neutral environment in the public service areas. We therefore ask patrons to be aware that terminals are in public locations and can be readily viewed by other patrons in the library. If material being displayed is offending nearby library patrons, the Internet user will be asked to terminate the site by a member of the library staff.

COMPUTER AND EQUIPMENT HELP:

The library staff provides limited assistance for Internet and personal computer use. Staff will be available to help users with basic access as need and time permits.

The Public Computer Center (PCC) is primarily used for staff and patron technology training. The PCC offers a variety of classes each month. In addition to workshops, the PCC offers Open Hours. During these times patrons may use the PCC equipment or bring in their own equipment and get help and assistance with their technology questions. PCC equipment is only available for use during scheduled PCC hours.

If library patrons choose to bring in their own equipment and/or have the library staff or Public Computer Center staff assist with their equipment, they agree to adhere to the library’s Equipment and Computer Use policy. In addition, patrons who choose to have a library or PCC staff assist with their devices agree to hold the library harmless for any problems, perceived or otherwise, that may occur subsequent to such assistance.

Library staff does not provide support for, and will not install or modify, hardware in patrons’ devices.

WIRELESS ACCESS:

The Western Sullivan Public Library offers free wireless Internet access to library users with wireless-enabled devices. The Library provides unrestricted wireless access to the Internet and does not actively monitor or control content, but does maintain the right to do so. The provisions set forth in the Library’s Equipment and Computer Use policy are applicable to wireless network (Wi-Fi) access as well.

Our network supports a wide range of Wi-Fi (802.11b) devices. Most Wi-Fi network cards will be compatible. However, the Library can make no guarantees as to compatibility of a library user’s device with the library’s network. Library staff generally do not provide wireless access support and will not install or modify hardware or software. If a patron requests assistance with modifying settings in order to gain access to the wireless, the patron assumes the responsibility to modify and manage such settings for use outside of the library. In addition, patrons who choose to have a library staff member assist with their device agrees to hold the library harmless for any problems, perceived or otherwise, that may occur subsequent to such assistance. Communication through the wireless network should not be considered secure. The Library is not liable for damage to hardware or software, transmission of computer viruses, loss of data or e-mail, or any harm resulting from the use of an unsecured server.

Laptops using wireless are subject to all the rules of the library computers. Users are expected to agree to the Internet policy and therefore can be asked to terminate use if the policy is abused. Available power



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outlets may be used whenever the cord does not present a tripping hazard or block access for patrons and staff. Patrons may not unplug library equipment, move furniture, or block exits or aisles. The library is not responsible for any damaged equipment should a patron choose to plug into the library's power supply. The Library reserves the right to suspend wireless access privileges if a patron is violating any of the policies or procedures of WSPL.

Waiver:

I acknowledge I have read and understood the Western Sullivan Public Library Equipment and Computer Use Policy and agree to fully comply with all terms, conditions and requirements. I acknowledge and agree that any violation of the Equipment and Computer Use Policy will result in suspension or revocation of Library privileges at the sole discretion of the Library Director.

I acknowledge the Western Sullivan Public Library assumes no liability for any loss or damage to my data or equipment, or for any damage or injury arising from invasion of privacy in your computer accounts, programs, or files. In consideration for use of Library computer resources or Public Computer Center help or resources, I agree to hold harmless and indemnify Western Sullivan Public Library, its directors, officers, administrators, employees and agents from any and all liabilities for any claims, demands and damages to my person or property whatsoever.

Print Name

Signature

Date Signed



Western Sullivan Public Library

Western Sullivan Public Library Equipment Borrowing Agreement

My signature below indicates that I have read the Western Sullivan Public Library's Equipment Lending Policy and this Equipment Borrowing Agreement and I agree to abide by these conditions of use when checking out a device from the Western Sullivan Public Library. I agree to be bound by these terms in the future when borrowing a device even if I am not required to sign a new borrowing agreement.

I have received the device in good working order with all accessories present and I understand I am responsible for its return at the end of the loan period.

I will not tamper with the device and/or accessories and will contact the library immediately if there are any problems or technical issues with the device.

I will return the device to the branch where the item was checked out in person during regular library hours. I understand that the Western Sullivan Public Library reserves the right to suspend borrowing privileges if item is repeatedly returned late or intentionally damaged.

I agree to pay any late fees or replacement costs, if necessary and understand that the library may use any appropriate means to collect the amount owed by me for fees, damages, theft, or loss.

PLEASE PRINT

Patron Name: _____

Device Borrowed: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail Address: _____

Patron Signature: _____ Date: _____

Staff use only:

Library card #: _____ *Driver's License #:* _____

Staff Name: _____ *Branch:* _____