

Purpose: The Medicine Hat Public Library provides free public access to computers within the library to facilitate access to electronic resources such as the internet, the library catalogue, subscription electronic resources, and other electronic software the library deems relevant or appropriate. As an additional service, the library allows the public to connect to the internet using personal computers or other electronic devices.

1. The Medicine Hat Public Library expects users to be sensitive to responsible use of technology in a public place.
2. The library assumes basic computer knowledge, for example, how to use a mouse and simple keyboarding skills, for all people using public computers or the network. Library staff will assist users and provide personal instruction as time permits.
3. The library provides basic computer instruction, as well as instruction on searching electronic resources, including the internet, from time to time.
4. The library is not responsible for any claims, damages or costs arising from the use of personal computers or other electronic devices on the network. The library does not guarantee network availability, security or reliability.
5. Use of public computers or the network for illegal or criminal purposes, copyright infringement, or to seek access to unauthorized areas is prohibited. Users agree to comply with all applicable municipal, provincial, federal and international laws, rules and regulations.
6. Library staff have the authority to monitor sites/information accessed on the public computers and the use of the network by people using personal computers and other electronic devices.
7. Users are required to abide by the Medicine Hat Library Board's Bylaws governing conduct in the library. Library staff have the authority to ask users to leave the library if they are disturbing others or being disruptive.
8. Inappropriate behaviour while using any public computer or the network could result in the loss of computer privileges. Inappropriate behaviour includes but is not restricted to:
 - 8.1. Accessing sites or web pages with content inappropriate for viewing in a public and multi-age user environment;
 - 8.2. Inappropriate language or gestures;
 - 8.3. Disruptive behaviour; and,
 - 8.4. Unacceptable interactions with library staff or the public.

9. Internet access: The internet enables the library to provide information beyond the limits of its own collection. The internet is, however, an unregulated medium and there is little control over its use or content. While it offers a wealth of information, it also enables access to some materials that may be offensive or disturbing to some.
 - 9.1. The library provides unfiltered access to the internet to all library patrons.
 - 9.2. The library is not responsible for the content or quality of information accessed on the internet. Parents, legal guardians, or caregivers are responsible for monitoring internet sites and information accessed by their children. Internet information sources are not always accurate, complete, or current. The library does not take responsibility for the accuracy, timeliness, or appropriateness of information accessed on the internet.
 - 9.3. Internet computers in the adult departments are available to users aged thirteen (13) and up. The internet computers in Children's Services are available for users aged twelve (12) and under. A maximum of two (2) users may be at a public computer.
 - 9.4. An *Internet Access Agreement* form must be signed by a parent or legal guardian prior to the first time a child between the ages of seven (7) and twelve (12) uses a public internet computer on his/her own. Where a form has not been signed, the child must be accompanied during his/her use of the public internet computer by a parent, legal guardian, or adult caregiver. A child under the age of seven (7) must be accompanied by a parent, legal guardian, or adult caregiver at all times during his/her use of a public internet computer.