



Internet Access Policy for University Libraries # 2110.035

INITIAL EFFECTIVE DATE:	LAST REVISION DATE:	RESPONSIBLE UNIVERSITY DIVISION/DEPARTMENT
April 1998	February 23, 2024	University Libraries

POLICY STATEMENT

The purpose of internet access and use in the FIU Libraries is to allow FIU students, faculty, staff, and affiliates to use electronic resources that will support and enhance the educational, instructional, and research activities of the University Community on and off campus.

SCOPE

This Policy applies to students, faculty, staff, alumni, and the general public.

REASON FOR POLICY

The University Libraries seek to protect First Amendment Rights, including freedom of access to information. This encompasses the individual right to privacy. However, those using the Internet must be sensitive to the fact that library workstations are in public areas and screen images may be viewed by others. Additionally, electronic media do not afford privacy in communication, especially with respect to agencies other than the library, meaning that there may be limits on this privacy.

FIU library staff offer assistance and instruction in the use of the Internet as a research and information resource. They do not censor access or protect patrons from information that users may find offensive.

As with other library resources, parents, legal guardians, or care providers are responsible for their children's use of the Internet and for intentional or inadvertent viewing or reading of other patrons' screens.

Users who violate this policy may be subject to disciplinary action by the University, or legal action by the appropriate authorities. The Library reserves the right to terminate or limit the Internet access of any user who fails to comply with this policy. The Library also reserves the right to modify this policy at any time, without prior notice, to reflect changes in the technology, the law, or the Library's needs.



DEFINITIONS	
TERM	DEFINITIONS
N/A	N/A

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Materials obtained or copied on the Internet may be subject to copyright laws that govern making reproductions of copyrighted works. A work protected by copyright may not be copied without permission of the copyright owner unless the proposed use falls within the definition of "Fair Use." Patrons are responsible for compliance with all international, national, and state laws governing copyrighted materials, and signs explaining this are posted by duplicating devices.

Under no circumstances will the FIU Libraries have any liability for lost profits or for any direct or indirect special, punitive, or consequential damages, or any liability to any third party (even if the Libraries are advised of the possibility of such damage) arising from use of its connection to the Internet.

Internet users should be aware of applicable University regulations governing display of sexually suggestive materials in the workplace as well as in public areas of the library and be reminded, once again, that the purpose of providing Internet access is to further the learning, instruction, and research mission of the University.

RELATED RESOURCES

[FIU Policies & Procedures: Copyright](#)
[FIU Information Technology Security Practices, Policies, & Statements](#)
[FIU Policies & Procedures: Libraries](#)
[FIU Policies & Procedures: Privacy](#)

CONTACTS

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HISTORY

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Review Dates (*review performed, no updates*): N/A

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PROCEDURE STATEMENT

The following are examples of acceptable and unacceptable access and use of the internet in the University Libraries.

Acceptable Use

- Accessing online resources that support the academic mission of the University, such as databases, journals, e-books, etc.
- Communicating with others for scholarly or professional purposes, such as email, chat, video conferencing, etc.
- Creating and sharing original content that is relevant to the academic field of study, such as blogs, podcasts, wikis, etc.
- Participating in online learning activities that are authorized by the University, such as courses, workshops, webinars, etc.
- Printing or downloading information from the Internet for personal, educational, or research use, within the limits of applicable copyright laws.

Unacceptable Use

- Viewing, printing, or downloading material from the Internet that violates federal, state, or local laws or regulations, such as child pornography, hate speech, plagiarism, etc.
- Viewing, printing, or downloading material from the Internet that a reasonable person would consider offensive, obscene, or disruptive to the Library environment, such as sexually explicit or violently graphic images, sounds, or videos.
- Attempting to gain unauthorized access to information systems or networks, or to violate the privacy or security of others, such as hacking, phishing, spoofing, etc.
- Engaging in any activity that interferes with the normal functioning of the Library’s computers, networks, or equipment, such as installing unauthorized software, changing settings, damaging hardware, etc.
- Using the Library’s computers or networks for commercial purposes, such as advertising, soliciting, selling, etc.



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For additional information relating to internet access procedures and guidelines, refer to <https://library.fiu.edu/friendly.php?s=use/policies/building-use#internet-use-policy>