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[Home](#) > [Services](#) > [Public Computing](#)

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## Public Computing <sup>[1]</sup>

### **Computer availability**

Computers are available on a first-come first-served basis. Computer users are expected to obey the time limits set up for each computer in the Library. Some computers in the library may be reserved by signing up through the library's Pharos Signup system. Telephone reservations will not be taken. Various computer access groups are available at the Library as follows:

- **Online Public Catalog Computers**  
These computers are available for use by any Library users regardless of age or card privileges. They do not permit Internet access, but instead house the Library's online catalog, and are intended to facilitate individual research regarding library holdings and materials. These machines may not be reserved.
- **Public Computers**  
These computers are available to Library cardholders over the age of seven (7) whose accounts carry no more than \$5 in accrued fines and fees. Users may access the Internet, or use Microsoft Office services installed on these machines for a period of up to one (1) hour at a time. Individual sessions may be extended as availability permits, for a maximum period of two (2) hours per day. These machines may be reserved through the Library's Pharos sign-up system.
- **Guest Computers**  
Guest passes are available for non-library cardholders upon temporary exchange of valid ID at the Adult Information Desk. Users may access the Internet, or use Microsoft Office services installed on these machines for a period of up to thirty (30) minutes at a time. These machines may be reserved through the Library's Pharos sign-up system.
- **Kidzone Computers - Youth area**  
These computers are available for use by any cardholder aged eleven (11) or younger whose accounts carry no more than \$5 in accrued fines and fees. Guest passes are available for young non-cardholders at the Youth Information Desk. These machines have age-related educational and recreational software installed, and Internet access is not available. Users may use these computers for a period of up to thirty (30) minutes at a time.

- **Teen computers - Teen area**

These computers are available for use by any cardholder aged between 12 and 17 whose accounts carry no more than \$5 in accrued fines and fees. These machines have age-related educational and recreational software installed, and Internet access is available. Users may use these computers for a period of up to one (1) hour at a time. Individual sessions may be extended as availability permits, for a maximum period of two (2) hours per day.

### **Printing**

Printouts are available for 10 cents per page (B&W) or 25 cents per page (color). All print jobs are sent to the Pharos Print station where they may be retrieved only by inserting a TracCard or cash. When you first purchase a TracCard for \$1.00 (on the wall by the Friends Bookstore), you will get 50 cents worth of printouts. TracCards are reusable, and may be revalued at any time in increments of \$1, \$5 or \$10.

### **Saving Information**

Information may be saved using a burnable CD, or any personal portable USB device such as flash or jump drives. Flash drives are available for purchase for \$5 each at the Information Desk. The computer hard drive (C:) is not available as a storage device. No unauthorized or outside computer software may be downloaded or installed on any Library computer.

### **Staff Assistance**

Staff will assist library users in getting started with basic computer use as staff time and availability of trained personnel permits. Regrettably, the staff is not able to offer extensive explanations or training regarding the Internet or personal computer use, nor can the Library guarantee that appropriately-trained staff will be available to assist users at all times the Library is open.

Misuse of a Library computer may result in the loss of computer privileges, loss of library privileges and possible prosecution. Damages resulting from the misuse are the responsibility of the user or, in the case of minors, the parent or guardian.

### **Excerpt from the Texas State Penal Code**

#### § 43.22. Obscene Display or Distribution

(a) A person commits an offense if he intentionally or knowingly displays or distributes an obscene photograph, drawing, or similar visual representation or other obscene material and is reckless about whether a person is present who will be offended or alarmed by the display or distribution.

(b) An offense under this section is a Class C misdemeanor.

Acts 1973, 63rd Leg., p. 883, ch. 399, § 1, eff. Jan. 1, 1974. Amended by Acts 1993, 73rd Leg., ch. 900, § 1.01, eff. Sept. 1, 1994.

#### § 43.24. Sale, Distribution, or Display of Harmful Material to Minor

(a) For purposes of this section:

- (1) "Minor" means an individual younger than 18 years.
- (2) "Harmful material" means material whose dominant theme taken as a whole:
  - (A) appeals to the prurient interest of a minor, in sex, nudity, or excretion;
  - (B) is patently offensive to prevailing standards in the adult community as a whole with respect to what is suitable for minors; and
  - (C) is utterly without redeeming social value for minors.
- (b) A person commits an offense if, knowing that the material is harmful:
  - (1) and knowing the person is a minor, he sells, distributes, exhibits, or possesses for sale, distribution, or exhibition to a minor harmful material;
  - (2) he displays harmful material and is reckless about whether a minor is present who will be offended or alarmed by the display; or
  - (3) he hires, employs, or uses a minor to do or accomplish or assist in doing or accomplishing any of the acts prohibited in Subsection (b)(1) or (b)(2).
- (c) It is a defense to prosecution under this section that:
  - (1) the sale, distribution, or exhibition was by a person having scientific, educational, governmental, or other similar justification; or
  - (2) the sale, distribution, or exhibition was to a minor who was accompanied by a consenting parent, guardian, or spouse.
- (d) An offense under this section is a Class A misdemeanor unless it is committed under Subsection (b)(3) in which event it is a felony of the third degree.

Acts 1973, 63rd Leg., p. 883, ch. 399, § 1, eff. Jan. 1, 1974. Amended by Acts 1993, 73rd Leg., ch. 900, § 1.01, eff. Sept. 1, 1994.

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**Mon-Wed 9-8, Th 9-5:30, Fr 9-5, Sat 10-2:30**

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