

WESTCHESTER PUBLIC LIBRARY

WIRELESS ACCESS POLICY

The Westchester Public Library offers free wireless access (aka "hot spots" and "WiFi") at the Thomas and Hageman Libraries for patrons to use with their own personal notebooks, laptops and other mobile devices. Access at the Thomas Library is strongest in the Automation/Serials Department and may not be accessible throughout the entire building. This access is usually only accessible during normal library hours.

As with most public wireless hot spots, the library's wireless connection is not secure. There can be third parties between a user and anybody with whom the user communicates, and any information transmitted could potentially be intercepted by another wireless user. Cautious and informed wireless users should choose not to transmit personal information (credit card numbers, passwords, and any other sensitive information) while using any wireless hot spot. Library patrons are asked to observe precautions when using this service.

All of the library's wireless access is filtered at all times, but patrons are cautioned that computer filtering is not infallible.

The library's wireless network can be accessed by opening a browser and then entering a library barcode number and password. Patrons without passwords can get one assigned at a service desk. Patrons can change their password by accessing the patron account information in the library catalog.

Library staff may be able to provide general information and handouts for connecting a device to the wireless network but cannot troubleshoot problems related to a user's personal wireless device or assist in making changes to a device's network settings and/or hardware configuration. The library cannot guarantee that a user's device will work with the library's wireless access points.

It is strongly recommended for all wireless access users to have up-to-date virus protection on their laptop computers or wireless devices. The library will not be responsible for any information (e.g., credit card) that is compromised or for any damage caused to a user's hardware or software due to electric surges, security issues, or consequences caused by viruses or hacking. The use of the library's wireless network is entirely at the risk of the user. The library disclaims all liability for loss of confidential information or damages resulting from that loss. The library will not be responsible for laptops or other devices left unattended.

All users are expected to use the library's wireless access in a legal and responsible manner, consistent with the educational and informational purposes for which it is provided. A patron's use of this service is also governed by the Library Computer and Internet Acceptable Use Policy posted on the library's website.

The library's wireless network has been configured for interactive searches and information gathering on the internet and is not sized for large downloads. Users who need to download software or large images should use the wired public access computers in the library.