



Copyright and Fair Use

Purpose

The Nippersink Public Library District (“Library”) supports the principles of intellectual freedom and respect for creators’ rights. This policy ensures that Library collections, equipment, and services are used in compliance with the United States Copyright Act (Title 17, U.S. Code) and related laws.

General Policy

The Library complies with all federal copyright laws governing the reproduction, distribution, adaptation, public performance, and public display of copyrighted works. Patrons and staff are expected to observe these laws when using Library materials, technology, or spaces.

Library Responsibilities

1. The Library may lend, lease, or rent copies of books, audiovisual materials, and computer software for non-profit educational and personal use, as permitted under Title 17 U.S.C. § 109 (“first-sale doctrine”).
2. The Library may refuse to fulfill or process any interlibrary loan, duplication, or use request if, in the judgment of the Library Director or staff designee, fulfilling the request would likely result in copyright infringement.
3. Library staff shall not make copies, downloads, or reproductions of materials unless allowed under fair-use provisions, license agreements, or other lawful exceptions.

Patron Responsibilities

1. Patrons are responsible for complying with copyright law when using Library materials, makerspace equipment, photocopiers, scanners, computers, or digital services.
2. Unauthorized reproduction, distribution, or public performance of copyrighted material—including music, movies, software, streaming content, images, or text—may subject the individual to civil and criminal penalties.
3. Patrons should review the copyright notices posted near Library copiers, printers, and equipment prior to use.

Fair Use and Educational Exceptions

Section 107 of the Copyright Act allows limited reproduction of copyrighted works for purposes such as teaching, research, criticism, news reporting, or scholarship when such use meets the criteria for fair use (purpose, nature, amount, and effect on the market).

Library staff can provide general information about fair-use principles but cannot give legal advice or authorization to copy protected materials.



Digital and Electronic Resources

Many Library databases, eBooks, streaming platforms, and digital collections are governed by license agreements that may impose restrictions beyond federal copyright law. Patrons are responsible for adhering to those license terms and may not share access credentials or content obtained through Library subscriptions.