

Lending wifi hotspots Starting the discussion

In order to lend wifi hotspots to patrons in OWLSnet, we'll need to define the terms of the loan. Ideally, we'd agree to the same fine amounts and loan periods for these items.

Most libraries only lend hotspots to adult patrons, but all of the other terms vary wildly. These are the terms we need to set:

1. Can the hotspot be placed on hold?
 - a. The answer is probably no, since in our system that generally means that it also can be transported on the van.
2. Will it go out in delivery?
3. How long does it circulate for?
4. Can it be renewed?
5. What is the renewal period?
6. How many times can it be renewed?
7. What is the fine amount per day?
8. What is the maximum fine amount?
9. Will you require patrons to sign a special form?
10. When is the item billed?
11. Do you have procedures in place to turn off service when item is overdue?

Here are how some libraries have set these terms:

- NYPL lends for 1 year. \$100 fine if device is not returned.
- Queens lends for 1 month, can renew three times.
- Chicago lends for 3 weeks, can renew up to 15 times if no other holds. Overdue fines of \$1 a day with a max fine of \$10. Replacement fee is market value, currently \$40.
- Spring Hill, Tennessee lends for 1 week. Late fee of \$3 a day. Service is turned off remotely when item is overdue.
- Delaware County District Library lends for two weeks. No late fees, however, after loan period is up, device is de-activated and full cost billed to patron's account. Charge removed when device is returned.
- Westerville lends for 1 week with no renewals. Late fee of \$1.25 per day up to a maximum of \$10. Replacement cost up to \$285.
- Aurora Public Library lends for 1 week with no renewals. Late fees of \$1 a day up to a maximum of \$20. Replacement cost is \$80. Will lend to patrons 11 years old and older.
- Kitchener, ON lends for 3 weeks with no renewals or holds.
- Providence Community Library lends for 1 week with no renewals. Late fee of \$5 a day. Replacement cost of \$120. \$25 fine for putting it in the bookdrop.
- Addison Public Library lends for 2 weeks.

Wisconsin Libraries

- Port Washington lends for 2 weeks and allows holds. Replacement cost of \$150.