

HEADLINES

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Rock Island Public Library Hosts a New Wi-Fi Hotspot

Travelers, business people, downtown residents and students who are looking for a quiet spot to read e-mail or connect to the Internet on their own computers now have a new wireless option – The [Rock Island Public Library](#) at 401 19th Street.

The downtown library just became part of the growing family of Wi-Fi hotspots. Wi-Fi, or Wireless Fidelity, hotspots are so named because a Wi-Fi enabled computer can send or receive data, indoors out, anywhere within the range of the wireless base station. Users can connect to the Internet on their own computer devices – which include laptops, handheld personal digital assistants (PDAs) and some cell phones - without wires.

To access the Main Library's wireless connection, the user's computer must have a Wi-Fi certified radio card (also referred to as a PC card.) Patrons with this capability can check e-mail *on their own computers* without waiting for a public Internet computer or worrying about time limits on library machines. The wireless base station range includes the second-floor Community Room and the study tables at the front of the first floor, before the stacks of bookshelves toward the back of the building.

According to Jennifer Fowler, Community Marketing Director, wireless Internet access is one of the City's top five [priorities](#). The library's wireless connection is a free service from the City of Rock Island. Other Wi-Fi hotspots in downtown Rock Island include the Council Chambers in City Hall and the Sheraton Four Points Hotel.