TOWN AND COUNTRY PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT

INTERNET USE POLICY (REVISED)

I.   The Internet and the Library's Mission
      The primary mission of the Town and Country Public Library District is as a
      popular materials center, with a secondary emphasis on curriculum support for
      local school districts. All public libraries serve the educational needs of the
      public in various ways, such as: reference service, non-fiction materials, and
      programs. Access to electronic sources, including the Internet, is another
      means of providing both information and entertainment for the public.

II.   General Rules and Policies
      1.   All adult patrons have access to the Internet stations. In order to use it,
           however, they must agree to the Library's Internet Use Policy. The
           policy is displayed at login. Copies of the policy are also available at the
           desk.
      2.   Written permission of a parent or guardian is not required for Internet
           access by children 17 and under. Parents who do not want their children
           to have Internet access at the Library must sign a form to that effect,
           which is available at the Circulation Desk.
      3.   Children 16 and under may use only the stations in the Children's area of
           the Library.
      4.   Printers are available for those who need to make copies from the Internet
           computers. There is a fee for copies. Please ask at the desk for the current
           fee.
      5.   Reservation software is installed on the Internet stations in order to
           facilitate traffic flow and insure that patrons will not have to wait more
           than 30 minutes for a computer. If no one is waiting, sessions may be
           extended for additional time. Library staff can instruct patrons in the use
           of the reservation system.
      6.   The Library's Internet connections are intended primarily for the use of
           the Library District residents and cardholders. Non-residents may access
           the Internet only if District residents are not waiting.
      7.   Library staff members reserve the right to monitor use of the Internet and
           will terminate the patron's session if use or patron behavior is deemed
           inappropriate according to Library policy.

III. Prohibited Uses
      Unacceptable and prohibited uses of the Library's Internet connection include
      but are not limited to:
      1.   Use for any illegal purposes.
      2.   Transmission of threatening obscene, or harassing materials:
                 A.   Threatening: a communicated intent to inflict harm or loss
                      on another or another's property, especially one that might
                      diminish a person's freedom to act voluntarily or with

lawful consent; a communicated indication of an approaching menace; a communication that might well cause harm to a person or thing.

B. Obscene: extremely offensive under contemporary community standards of morality and decency; grossly repugnant to the generally accepted notions of what is appropriate; material, if taken as a whole, that (1) appeals to the prurient interest in sex, as determined by the average person applying contemporary standards, (2) portrays sexual conduct, as specifically defined by the applicable state law, in a patently offensive way, and (3) lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value.

C. Harassing: words, conduct or action directed at a specific person that annoys, alarms, or causes substantial emotional distress in that person and serves no legitimate purpose.

3. Interference with or disruption of network users, services, or equipment.
4. Postings to usenet news groups or mail lists whose content is inappropriate.
5. Posting of chain letters.
6. Distribution of unsolicited advertisement.
7. Conducting any commercial business
8. Access to chat rooms is not allowed.
9. Adding to or removing anything from the list of favorites.
10. Installing or downloading any software.
11. Adding or deleting icons on the desktop.
12. Damaging or attempting to damage computer equipment or software.
13. Altering software configurations.
14. Using Internet access computers for any other purpose, such as word processing.
15. Establishing e-mail accounts or any other type of Internet accounts on the Library's computers, although checking existing email accounts is permitted.
16. Using any personal storage devices. This is limited to computers located in the public computer room or to patrons' own computers.

IV. Disclaimers

The Internet is a global electronic network that enables the Library to provide information to its patrons beyond the confines of its own collection. Library patrons use it at their own risk. Because it is an unregulated medium the staff cannot control:

1. Accuracy of information
2. Access to offensive or disturbing information
3. Availability of sites

The Library disclaims any liability or responsibility arising from access to or use of information obtained through its electronic information systems.

V.   Statement of Parental/Guardian Responsibility
It is the responsibility of the parent or guardian to supervise use of the Internet by children. The Library Board and Staff are not responsible for monitoring what sites children are accessing on the Internet.

VI.   Staff Assistance
Library Staff will be happy to show patrons how to access the Internet and will provide as much assistance as possible within time and staffing constraints. Staff assistance for wireless Internet access is governed by the Library's **Wireless Internet Access Acceptable Use Policy.**

VIOLATION OF ANY OF THE LIBRARY'S INTERNET POLICIES WILL BE REVIEWED ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS AND MAY RESULT IN TERMINATION OF ACCESS BY A PATRON

Date approved: March 10, 2008