

INTERNET USE POLICY

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 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. Adding to or removing anything from the list of favorites.
 5. Installing or downloading any software.
 6. Adding or deleting icons on the desktop.
 7. Damaging or attempting to damage computer equipment or software.
 8. Altering software configurations.
 9. Attempting to access the library's server or networking equipment.

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.

Any transaction entered into is the sole responsibility of the user. The Library is not a party in these electronic transactions and can't be held responsible or liable for monies owed.

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

Reviewed: April 2017