



# Internet and Acceptable Use Policy

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The Internet provides access to a vast array of information, entertainment, and tools. The Library provides Internet service at the Library's public access computers. The Library also provides Internet access via an open wireless network for any patron using a mobile device with WiFi capability. Internet access is provided to support the Library's mission statement to "provide its patrons with access to materials, programs and information needed to succeed at school, at work, and in their personal lives." Internet access provides an advanced and broad source of information to patrons. Like all other library provided sources and services, its use is subject to Library policy and guidelines.

## INTERNET POLICY

The Library strives to provide reliable, free, and open access to the Internet for all patrons.

In compliance with the Children's Internet Protection Act of 2000, and to protect the Library and patrons from malicious software, the Library has implemented filtering software to identify and prevent access to Internet pages known to distribute malware and/or graphical depictions not suitable for the public Library environment. This filtering does not interfere with Internet searches, but will prevent suspect web pages and sites from displaying. Adult patrons who believe filtering has prevented display of a legitimate page or site may request the filtering be temporarily disabled.

Despite safeguards put in place by the Library to protect patrons from malicious software and inadvertent access to offensive materials, the Library recognizes that the Internet is a very dynamic information environment and the Library cannot control Internet content. The Library has no control over the information accessed through the Internet and cannot be held responsible for its content. Patrons taking advantage of Library Internet access may be exposed to materials they deem offensive.

While the Library offers suggestions to a wide range of useful, and interesting sites, all Internet sites are accessible through the Library's Internet provider. This allows access to ideas, information and commentary from around the globe and a vast array of tools and resources for different age levels and points-of-view, some of which may contain inaccurate, controversial and even offensive material. The Internet is an unregulated, ungoverned fluid source of information that is constantly changing. The Library does not endorse the viewpoints or vouch for the accuracy of information obtained through the Internet. Selection policies, which serve to govern the Library's purchase of materials, are not applicable for materials accessed electronically. We firmly believe that the valuable information and interactions available on this worldwide network far outweigh the possibility of access to materials not consistent with Library goals.

## ACCEPTABLE USE

All users of Library electronic information resources such as the Internet and public-access computers are expected to use these resources in a responsible manner, consistent with the educational, informational and recreational purposes for which they are provided.

Responsible, ethical, use of Internet resources includes the following:

- Using resources for educational, informational and recreational purposes only, not for unauthorized, illegal or unethical purposes.
- Respecting the privacy of others by not misrepresenting oneself as another user, by not attempting to modify or gain access to files, passwords, or data belonging to others; by not seeking unauthorized access to any computer system, or damaging or altering software components of any network or database.
- Respecting the privacy of others using electronic information resources by not interfering with their use.

- Being sensitive to the fact that the Internet Access stations are in a public location subject to view by a wide audience.
- Not sending, receiving, or displaying, text or graphics which may reasonably be construed as obscene, sexually explicit, or demeaning to any race, ethnic background, religion, disability, gender, or life style.

#### **INTERNET POLICY**

- All relevant Library rules, regulations and policies apply to wireless use, including but not limited to, the SCPL Internet Access Policy.
- The Library is not responsible for the content, accuracy or availability of any external sites.
- Wireless connections are neither inherently secure or private. Users should not transmit credit card information, passwords or any other sensitive personal or business information over the Library's wireless network unless they have established a secure, encrypted connection with a valid web site that they trust. Anti-virus and security protection are the responsibility of the patron.
- The Library is not responsible for any loss of data, or for theft or damage to personal equipment or software.
- Library staff cannot provide technical assistance on using the Library's wireless network.
- There is no guarantee that a wireless connection can be made or maintained.
- The Library assumes no responsibility for any alterations or interference with a computing device's configurations, operation or data files resulting from connection to the wireless network.
- The Library reserves the right to terminate a wireless Internet session at any time.
- Library staff may use tools that identify the device you are using on our network as a matter of troubleshooting network issues. These tools may or may not identify you as the user, and are intended solely for troubleshooting problems on the network.

#### **ACCESS BY MINORS**

In-Library access to the Internet is available to anyone in good standing with the library who has a four-digit personal identification number assigned to their account. A Parent may prevent access to Library Internet services by informing Library staff to not assign a PIN or to remove a PIN from their child's account. Parents of minor children are responsible for overseeing their child's use of the Internet.

#### **ASSISTANCE**

Library staff will assist patrons with Internet use as time permits, but cannot offer personal instruction.

#### **TIME LIMITS**

Use of Library public access computers is limited to two hours per day to provide greater access and availability for all patrons. Time extensions may be granted to patrons and guests who request an extension prior to the expiration of their allotted time, at the discretion of the Technology Staff.

#### **VIOLATION OF GUIDELINES**

Misuse or abuse of this computer or Internet access may result in suspension of Internet access privileges. Persons using this equipment agree not to make any changes to the setup or configuration of the software or hardware. Violations of the letter and / or spirit of these guidelines may result in the suspension of Internet privileges. Violations of laws governing Internet use may result in criminal prosecution.