BURLINGTON (CT) PUBLIC LIBRARY'S INTERNET & ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY

The Burlington Public Library is committed to being a center of expanding knowledge for the community it serves and to responding to the multi-faceted needs of its patrons by offering free and unrestricted access to a balanced mix of books, media and information technology including the Internet.

INTRODUCTION

While the Internet is a powerful tool providing access to a wealth of information beyond the confines of the library's own collection, some information accessed through the Internet may not be current, accurate or complete. Some material may be considered offensive or inappropriate.   By choosing to use the Internet you agree to abide by the *Library's Acceptable Use Policy* that prohibits abusive or illegal activity while using the library's Internet service. Inappropriate use includes but is not limited to:
1. Accessing, transmitting, uploading, downloading or distributing pornographic, obscene, or sexually explicit materials;
2. Preventing unauthorized online disclosure, use, or dissemination of personal identification information of minors.
3. Violating any local, state, or federal statutes; or any material deemed harmful to minors.
4. Violating copyright;
5. Harassment of others;
6. Downloading onto library computer hard drives;
7. Damaging or destroying equipment, software, or data belonging to the library.

Internet workstations are located in public areas of the library which are accessible to patrons of all ages, including children. As such, internet users are subject to the rules regarding appropriate behavior in the library. Library staff may monitor patrons' Internet use to ensure that library policies and behavior guidelines are being adhered to. The AWE Learning computers, in the children's department, are not connected to the Internet; therefore they are not subjected to the same rules. Adults, not with young people, working on computers in the children's or teen rooms, will be asked to work in the adult area, unless there are extenuating circumstances. Inappropriate use will result in immediate termination of the patron's Internet privileges.

INTERNET FILTERING

In compliance with the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) [Pub L. 106-554 and 47 USC (United States Code) 254 (h)] the library filters all its computers and all access to the Interment through its network, to protect against access to obscene visual depictions, child pornography and /or other material harmful to minors as requires by law.

The term "obscene" as defined in 18 USC Section 1460
The term "child pornography" as defined in 18 USC Section 2256
The term "harmful to minors" as defined in 47 USC Section 254[G]

As required by CIPA, prevention of inappropriate network usage includes unauthorized access including so-called hacking and other unlawful activities, and unauthorized disclosure, use, and dissemination of personal identification information regarding minors.

Filtering software is by its very nature imperfect, therefore, the library has chosen to employ the minimum level of filtering that will allow for CIPA compliance. The filter may unintentionally block sites that have legitimate research value and fail to block objectionable content. Library patrons should be aware that Internet filtering software installed for CIPA compliance should not substitute for individual judgment and/or parental involvement and oversight. The Library Director, or designated staff, is allowed to unblock erroneously blocked individual websites for adults and minors.
In addition, Library Director, or designated staff, will disable filtered Internet access to persons 18 or older, who request it for bona fide research or any other lawful purposes. Filters cannot be disabled on public computers in the children's or teen department.

General Internet Policy
Parents or guardians are responsible for monitoring and supervising their children's access to and use of the Internet while in the library. Library staff may enforce a time limit of one hour on all Internet workstations when other patrons are waiting to use the workstations. The Burlington Public Library is responsible only for the information on its home page, and cannot assume responsibility for the content, accuracy, completeness or nature of any other information found on the Internet. As with printed matter, material obtained from the Internet may be subject to copyright laws which govern the making of reproductions of copyrighted works. Flash Drives may be used to download information off the Internet or to save information that the patron is working on.

Education, Supervision, and Monitoring
The Library affirms and acknowledges the rights and responsibilities of parents and caregivers to monitor and determine their children's access to library materials and resources, including those available through the Internet. Parents or caregivers are responsible for the Internet information selected and/or accessed by their children. To assist parents, children, and other library patrons, the library will provide Internet safety resources, as well as occasional classes or programs that address privacy, security, and safety issues.

Wireless Internet Policy
The library offers wireless Internet access in both the adult and children's area. There are no printers available for use on the wireless network. Library staff will provide general information on how to access the Internet via our wireless connection, but will not make any changes to your personal computer and can provide no troubleshooting or technical support beyond what is addressed on the general information sheet. Users are responsible for the network settings on their own machines. Wireless networks are less secure than a wired network and users should use caution when choosing to transmit passwords, credit card numbers, or other confidential information. The Burlington Public Library cannot be held responsible for any information that is compromised while using the wireless Internet service, nor can it be held responsible for any damage to users' hardware or software caused by viruses, hacking, or other security issues on the network. Users of the wireless Internet service are bound by the same *Acceptable Use Policy* (see Introduction) as users of the regular Internet workstations and are subject to the same consequences if the guidelines are not followed. Inappropriate use will result in immediate termination of the patron's internet privileges.

APPROVED AT THE BOARD OF LIBRARY DIRECTORS' REGULAR MEETING, TUESDAY, JUNE 5, 2018