



Enriching Minds.  
Enhancing Community.

## INTERNET USE POLICY

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

In order to provide computer access to as many people as possible, the Ridgefield Library reserves the right to institute time limits and sign-in procedures as necessary.

Printing is permitted from the computers at a cost established by the Library.

While it is a powerful tool providing access to a wealth of information beyond the confines of the Library's own collection, the Internet is unregulated and some information accessed through the Internet may not be current, accurate, or complete, and some material may be considered offensive or inappropriate. The Ridgefield Library cannot assume responsibility for the content, accuracy, completeness, or nature of information found on the Internet, or be responsible for the use of the Internet by its patrons.

**Internet Access in the Children's Room:** There are dedicated computer terminals in the Children's Room that provide filtered access to the Internet. These computers are principally for the use of minors and their accompanying parent, guardian or other adult caregiver. However, the Library cannot guarantee that any filtering system will actually prevent total access to all material that might be considered objectionable or inappropriate for minors. As with other Library materials, a child's use of the Internet is solely the responsibility of the child's parent or guardian. Parents are encouraged to provide guidance and explore the Internet with their children.

**Internet Access in Other Areas:** The Library's other Internet workstations are in areas shared by patrons of all ages. These computers are not filtered. Therefore, all patrons should refrain from accessing potentially objectionable or offensive information or images. This applies as well to patrons who are accessing the Internet on their own laptop computers or other devices.

In general, certain other commonsense principles apply to the use of the Library's computer workstations:

- They should not be used for illegal purposes as proscribed by Connecticut and Federal laws.
- They should not be used to harass, threaten or libel others.
- Only Library-provided software may be used on the Library's computers. Users may not intentionally remove, alter or damage hardware, software or data on the Library's computers or network.
- As with printed matter, material obtained from the Internet may be subject to copyright laws that govern the making of reproductions of copyrighted works. Users must comply with U.S. Copyright law and other applicable legal principles.
- It is the Library's policy to protect users' confidentiality. Library users should be aware, however, that a library might be required to disclose data related to the use of a computer terminal when it is served with a valid subpoena or court order.

The Library reserves the right to terminate an Internet session at any time for inappropriate use. Internet privileges will be suspended if the use or behavior at an Internet workstation is not in keeping with this policy.