



Policy Title:	Internet Access
Policy Type:	Public Service
Policy #:	PS 005-03
Policy Authority:	Board
Effective Date:	November 2012

PURPOSE

Set out parameters of the use of the Clarington Public Library's public Internet services both in-house and remotely.

POLICY

1. As with all other library resources, the principle of intellectual freedom applies to Internet access. The Clarington Public Library endorses the Canadian Library Association Statement on Intellectual Freedom. As such all users including children have access to Internet resources.
2. Recognizing that the Internet is a constantly changing unregulated global network, the Library may offer a mix of filtered and unfiltered computers in all branches, using commercial content filters. Filtering software is intended to block sexually explicit or hate material. However, no filter currently available is capable of blocking all content that may be offensive or disturbing to some users. The library assumes no liability in the event the filter is not 100% effective.
3. All users have access to all workstations. Public awareness and parental guidance remain key to making the best possible use of Internet resources. The Library cannot and does not act in place or in the absence of a parent or guardian and is not responsible for enforcing restrictions that a parent or guardian may place upon a minor's use of this technology.
4. The Library assumes responsibility for information developed by staff on the library's website. Beyond this, the Library does not control or monitor any of the information available through the Internet.
5. The Library reserves the right to review patterns of use of Internet workstations to ensure that its Internet policy is being followed.
6. The Library reserves the right to prohibit the access of material that in their judgement is inappropriate for viewing in a public area. This includes text or graphics.
7. The Library does not offer electronic mail accounts or on-line chat. However, users should be aware that these services may be accessed through other Internet sites at all of the library's workstations.
8. To maximize all users' access to the library's electronic information resources, Internet use is limited on a per session basis and to a daily maximum number of hours per user.

The Library Does Not Assume Responsibility for the Following:

1. The accuracy, currency or appropriateness of material on the Internet
2. Any damages - direct or indirect - arising from a user's connection to Internet services, including wireless services (filtered). Library users make use of the Library's wireless network at their own risk. The wireless network is not secure and is not encrypted. Any information sent or received using the wireless network could be intercepted by a third party.
3. Infringement of copyright, software licenses or other intellectual rights by Internet users.

Your Responsibilities as a Library User

1. By clicking on the "I Accept" button on the screen, you agree to follow the Library's Internet Policy.
2. You are working in a public environment shared by users of all backgrounds and sensitivities. Please show consideration for fellow library users when accessing the Internet. Refrain from displaying content (text or images) that might reasonably offend others. Do not display overt sexual images on the screen. Respect the privacy of others.
3. You are responsible for the information that you access via the Internet.
4. All workstations in the children's areas in the library branches are filtered. However, you are responsible as a parent or guardian to provide ongoing guidance and education to your children regarding Internet use, responsibility, values and good conduct in a public space.
5. You are responsible for any and all expenses incurred, or the potential repercussions to yourself or to a third party, as a result of having entered personal/banking/credit card information with your Internet use, using a library workstation or using the library's wireless network.
6. You are responsible for any damage you cause to the library's computer equipment.
7. You are responsible for any direct or indirect damages that result from your use of Internet services or any losses or damages sustained by the library as a result of your use of its Internet service.
8. You may not install, modify, delete or download software.
9. You may not use the library's computers for illegal, unethical or criminal purposes or to seek access into unauthorized areas.
10. You are responsible for any infringement of copyright or software licenses or other intellectual rights that could result from copying or distributing materials found on the Internet.
11. You are responsible for charges levied by the library for printing from Internet workstations.
12. You are responsible for closing all programs and logging out at the end of your Internet session.

13. You may use only your own library barcode and PIN numbers to access the Internet.

Consequences for Violating Internet Access Policy

1. Failure to comply with the library's Internet policy may result in the loss of Internet and library privileges, and in some instances, criminal prosecution.