

## Internet Acceptable Use Policy

### Disclaimer

While the Library offers suggestions to a wide range of useful and interesting sites through the SuffolkWeb Home Page, 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 to material accessed electronically. The Library has no control over the information accessed through the Internet and cannot be held responsible for its content. 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

Users of the Internet are expected to use this resource in a responsible, ethical manner. Such use includes:

- Using it for educational, informational and recreational purposes only, not for unauthorized, illegal or unethical purposes.
- 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.
- Not participating in chat rooms.
- 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.
- Further respecting the privacy of others using public access workstations by not interfering with their use.
- Making no changes to the setup or configuration of the software or hardware on the Library's computers.
- Saving Information from the Internet only to a portable device or by printing it out. Downloading information to the library's hard drive is not permissible.

### Access by Minors

In-library access to the Internet is available to anyone who has a Brookhaven Free Library card in good standing. **We recommend that parents take an active interest in, and responsibility for their children's online use.** Children in 6<sup>th</sup> grade and younger should use the computers in the children's room. Children in this age group may use the

adult computers when accompanied by a parent. The parent must stay with the child at all times during this time.

If it is apparent that acceptable use guidelines are not being followed, library staff will intervene. It is not possible for library staff to monitor all use. We cannot guarantee inappropriate sites will never be accessed by children and youth.

### **Assistance**

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

### **Violations of guidelines**

Misuse or abuse of the computers or Internet access may result in suspension of Internet access privileges. 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.

*Adopted 03/16/98  
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