Internet Acceptable Use Policy

Library Mission
The Angie W. Cox Public Library provides access to the Internet as part of our mission to fulfill the informational, educational, cultural, and recreational needs of our patrons.

Disclaimer
The Internet is a global electronic network and there is no single government body that controls or regulates its content. It enables the library to greatly expand its information services beyond the traditional collections and resources. However, not all information on the Internet is current, complete or accurate. The Angie W. Cox Public Library has no control over the information found on the Internet and is not responsible for its content. Internet web sites may contain controversial or offensive material. Individual sites may contain content considered by parents to be inappropriate or even harmful for their children. The library's Internet workstations are **NOT** equipped with filtering/blocking software. **Access, use, or dissemination of information via the Internet in the Library is the responsibility of the user.**

Rules Governing Acceptable/Unacceptable Use
The library's computers may be used only the following purposes:

Acceptable use includes:
- Access to Email accounts and social networking sites.
- Access of information to address the educational, vocational, cultural and recreational needs of the user.

Unacceptable use includes, but is not limited to:
- Transmitting of threatening or harassing materials, libeling or slandering other users;
- Not respecting or invading the privacy of others;
- Attempting to modify or gain access to files, access codes, passwords, or data belonging to others;
- Attempting to crash, reconfigure, degrade performance of, or gain unauthorized access to the library's computer software systems and networks;
- Connecting a personal laptop or other equipment to our wired Internet connection;
- Accessing, viewing, printing and distributing obscenity, child pornography and materials harmful to minors. Sec. 948.11 of the Wisconsin Statutes, among other things, makes it a crime to expose children to pictures or images of nudity, sexually explicit conduct, physical torture or brutality that are patently offensive;

Sanctions
The library reserves the right to end the patron's session if Internet use results in disruption of library services, illegal or unacceptable use, or if patron behavior becomes inappropriate for a library setting. Misuse or abuse of the computer or Internet access will result in suspension of Internet access privileges for three months. If the patron is a minor, a letter detailing the offense will be sent to the parent via certified mail. Illegal acts involving library computer resources may also be subject to prosecution by local, state, or federal authorities. If there is a second offense, suspension of Internet access privileges will last one year.

Revised 3/2012

Guidelines Governing In-House Use
Time limits are set by the library's TELUS software.
- Computers are available during open library hours and can be reserved via the public access computers or remotely through the library's website. If no reservations exist, access is on a first-come, first-served basis.
- Reservations can be made up to 7 days in advance, with a maximum of 20 sessions.
- All Internet users must have a current library card and be in good standing with fines not exceeding $5.00. Visitors, or others who do not have a card, may request a temporary card at the Circulation Desk.
- Users must be 12 years old to use the Internet independently, or be directly supervised by a parent/guardian (and log on with their library card).
- No more than two users may use a computer workstation at one time, to limit noise and crowding.
- A fee of $.10 (cents) per black and white page and $.50 (cents) per color page will be charged for information printed on the library printer.

Supervising Children's Use
The public library, unlike schools, does not serve *in loco parentis* (in place of a parent). Parents/ guardians must assume responsibility for deciding what library resources are appropriate for their children and are strongly encouraged to develop acceptable family rules of Internet use.

The following are **recommended guidelines for parents/guardians** to ensure that children have positive online experiences, whether at home or in the library.
- Encourage children to use sites you are familiar with or recommended on the Library's homepage at www.scls.lib.wi.us/par and counsel them to avoid sites you consider inappropriate or unsuitable.
- Provide guidelines for your children on the amount of time they spend online, just as for television viewing.
- Instruct children NEVER to give out personal information (name, address, password, telephone number) online and never arrange to meet in-person with people they become acquainted with online.
- Teach children to be good online consumers. As with print information, consider the source, date, and accuracy of online information.
- Encourage children to ask Library staff for help in finding information on the Internet.

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Re-evaluation of the Internet Acceptable Use Policy
This policy will be reviewed and amended as needed.

Revised 3/2012