

8.1.6 Public Computer Workstations—Internet Access Policy

1. The Port Colborne Public Library provides public access to the Internet in keeping with its role in providing equal access to information and resources to meet the educational, informational and recreational needs of the community.

In support of intellectual freedom, the Port Colborne Public Library has no control over the information accessed through the Internet and cannot be held responsible for its content. Many sites carry information users may find controversial, inappropriate or obscene. The Internet is a global entity with a highly diverse user population and library patrons use it at their own discretion.

Users are reminded that not all sources on the Internet provide age-appropriate, accurate, complete, or current information. Users should evaluate Internet sources as they would print publications and may need to question the validity of the information found.

The library cannot control the availability of information links which often change rapidly and unpredictably.

Users are advised that because security is technically difficult to achieve, electronic files and communications could become public.

The Port Colborne Public Library assumes no responsibility for any damages, direct or indirect, arising from use of its Internet stations.

2. CHILDREN AND THE INTERNET

As with other library materials, supervision or restriction of a child's access to the Internet is the responsibility of the parent or legal guardian. The Port Colborne Public Library assumes no responsibility for the use of the Internet by children. Children under 14 must have permission from a parent/guardian before using the Internet. Accordingly, parents/guardians must come to the Library to sign an Internet Agreement form for children under 14.

3. CONDITIONS AND TERMS OF INTERNET USE IN THE LIBRARY

Violation of the library's *Internet Access Policy* may result in the loss of Internet privileges and/or removal from the library. Any library users involved in illegal activities will be subject to criminal prosecution.

4. USERS MAY NOT:

- (a) download files;
- (b) make any attempt to damage or make any changes to the configuration or setup of computer equipment or software;

- (c) use or install personal software or data on any media;
- (d) send, receive or display text or graphics which may reasonably be construed as obscene;
- (e) violate copyright laws or software licensing agreements;
- (f) attempt to modify or gain unauthorized access to files, data or passwords belonging to others or seek unauthorized access to any computer system;
- (g) harass, slander or libel other users;
- (h) engage in any activity which is disruptive to other Library users

5. INAPPROPRIATE RESOURCES

There are information resources which are inappropriate to a library setting. Because the library is a public place, library staff has the authority to end an Internet session when such material displays on the screen.

6. PRINTING

Printouts are available for a fee.

7. STAFF ASSISTANCE

Library staff will assist patrons with Internet use as time permits but cannot offer in-depth training. Patrons who require extra help or training are encouraged to take advantage of training if scheduled in the library and to investigate formal education programs available elsewhere in the region.

8. WIRELESS ACCESS

- (a) The Library offers no guarantee or warranty with respect to wireless access. The Library assumes no responsibility or liability for personal equipment, configuration, security measures and/or data connected to, or travelling through the library's network.
- (b) Library staff is not permitted to provide technical assistance with the configuration of personal equipment. No guarantee can be provided that users will be able to make a wireless connection or connect at a particular speed.

9. Due to the emerging nature of these services, policies are subject to change without notice and at the Library's discretion.

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