

SOUTH PASADENA PUBLIC LIBRARY

Internet and WI-FI Acceptable Use Policy

Adopted: June 8, 1999

Amended: 8/13/02, 8/9/05, 9/19/06

Reviewed: 8/13/02, 8/9/05, 9/19/06

The Internet and the Library=s mission: In response to advances in technology and the changing needs of the community, the South Pasadena Public Library endeavors to develop collections, resources, and services that meet the needs of South Pasadena=s diverse population. It is within this context that the South Pasadena Public Library offers access to the Internet and acknowledges that the Library=s endorsement of the Library Bill of Rights, Freedom to Read and Free Access to Libraries for Minors applies to electronic information as well.

The Nature of Information on the Internet: The Internet is not controlled or governed by any single entity, hence, the South Pasadena Public Library cannot verify accuracy, timeliness, usefulness, validity of information, availability of sites, or content of information found on the Internet. As with other sources, patrons themselves must evaluate the information. Availability of information via library terminals does not constitute the library=s endorsement of the information. If a patron believes that information obtained from the Internet is inaccurate, illegal, or offensive, the patron is advised to contact the original producer or distributor.

Statement of Parental/Guardian Responsibility: The South Pasadena Public Library=s policy is that parents or legal guardians are responsible for deciding what library resources are appropriate for their minor children. As with other library resources, supervision or restriction of a child=s access to the Internet remains the responsibility of a parent or guardian. For children under the age of 13, a signed parental permission slip is required before Internet access will be made available. It is recommended that parents and children attend the Internet training class offered on a monthly basis by the Children=s Department. More information on children and the Internet can be found in *Librarian=s Guide to Cyberspace for Parents and Kids* by the American Library Association (<http://www.ala.org/parentspage/greatsites/guide.html>) and in *Child Safety on the Information Highway* from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (call 1-800-843-5678 for a free copy) or access online at <http://www.missingkids.com>.

Acceptable Use and Disclaimer: All users of electronic resources are to act in a responsible and ethical manner, consistent with the educational and informational purposes for which they are provided. In accordance with federal and state laws and regulations, patrons of all ages are not permitted to use terminals for any illegal or criminal purpose, including, but not limited to, accessing legally obscene materials, harassment or stalking, unauthorized access to computer systems, or in a manner that disrupts the work of other patrons. The Library staff member may

immediately end a customer's Internet session if material is displayed that is inappropriate to a public library setting where people of all ages and sensitivities congregate. Inappropriate materials include but are not limited to pornography and visual content that is sexually graphic or features nudity or extreme violence.

The library expressly disclaims any liability or responsibility arising from access to or use of information obtained through electronic information systems, including any activities by a user found to be illegal. Patrons who violate policies risk losing their computer and library privileges.

Wireless Access: The Library established wireless access to the Internet for laptop users to enhance and expand access to this important tool in the library. Laptop users with a wireless network connection can use the Library's wireless access to browse the Internet. Wireless users are expected to adhere to the Library's Internet Use Policy and violations of our policy will result in the loss of library and computer privileges. The Library does not monitor the use of the Internet by laptop users. Parents need to be aware that wireless access is free and unrestricted.

Access and Privacy Restrictions: It is likely that the number of Internet terminals will never equal demand. Access restrictions and time limits are essential for equitable and orderly use. The library reserves the right to enforce time limits, to limit the number of users per terminal and to charge for printing. Due to the location and configuration of terminals, patrons' privacy cannot be ensured.

Staff Internet Assistance: Librarians are only able to provide brief help on basic computer use. Lengthy one-on-one tutorials are not possible due to staffing constraints. We highly recommend that new users inquire about our Internet training class which is offered on a monthly basis.

Additional Information: For more detailed information, patrons should request a copy of *Internet Procedures for Children* and the *Internet User=s Agreement*.