

STOUGHTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
INTERNET ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY

I. Purpose

The Stoughton Public Library offers access to electronic resources including LinkCat, the Internet, various software programs, and public use computers as part of its mission to provide services and materials in a variety of formats to meet the information, education, and recreation needs of our patrons.

II. Definitions

- A. The Internet is an electronic network that enables libraries to provide resources, materials, and information beyond their doors.
- B. The Internet is a global entity that does not fall under the control of governance of any single agency, government or organization.

III. General Guidelines

- A. The user must have his/her current library card in good standing.
- B. In order to insure as fair access as possible to any computer station, the library may set time limits. The library reserves the right to end an Internet session when time limits are exceeded.
- C. Staff reserves the right to intervene if they judge that equipment is being misused. Persons using the computers assume the responsibility for damage to software and hardware.
- D. Users may not in any way alter, reconfigure or damage the public access workstations. Doing so will result in loss of computer privileges.
- E. Personal software programs may not be used on library computers. Personal data disks may be used.

IV. Internet Use

- A. Users of the Internet are responsible for all copyright compliance in accordance with Title 17 of the United States Code.
- B. Parents/Guardians are responsible for minor children's use of the Internet. The Library staff can help guide and educate users while they use the Internet, but they cannot monitor children's use, or limit it. Parents/Guardians should provide children with guidelines on acceptable use of electronic resources, including email and chat rooms.

C. Terminals may not be used for any illegal or criminal purpose, including but not limited to:

- violation of computer system security,
- unauthorized use of computer accounts or access codes,
- obstruction or disruption of other people's work,
- violation of copyright or software licensing restrictions

Other examples of unacceptable use include, but are not limited to:

- Harassment of other users, or violation of their privacy.
- Libeling, slandering, or maliciously offending other users.
- Damaging equipment, software or data belonging to the Library or other users.
- Sending, receiving, or displaying material that may reasonably be construed as obscene.

V. Disclaimers

- A. The Library considers its endorsement of the Library Bill of Rights and the Freedom to Read documents to apply to access to and use of electronic information as well as to print materials. The Stoughton Public Library considers use of any public access computer in its facility to constitute an acceptance of its Internet Acceptable Use Policy.
- B. The Library does not guarantee that information found on the Internet is entirely accurate, authoritative, factual, timely, or useful for patrons' purposes.
- C. The availability of networked information via library terminals does not constitute the Library's endorsement of the content of the information.
- D. Illegal use of the computers may be subject to prosecution by local, state, or federal authorities.

Adopted: June 26, 2002

Revised: April 14, 2005

Revised: June 11, 2008

Revised: June 11, 2008