Internet and Computer Use   **Policy 1.4**
To fulfill its mission to provide public access to information of all types in a wide range of formats, the Library provides access to Internet resources, which include many valuable local, national and international sources of information. Library computer access is intended primarily for reference and research purposes.

I. Computer Use Guidelines
   A. Registration and Limitations on Use
       1. Patrons may use Library computers for periods of forty-five minutes by presenting their borrower's card or other form of identification to staff at the circulation desk. If there is no demand for the computer by other patrons or staff, users may remain on the computer beyond the forty-five-minute time limit, with the understanding that the session may be interrupted if the computer is needed.
       2. No sign-up will be permitted for the last fifteen minutes before the Library closes.
       3. No more than two people may be seated at any one terminal at a time.
   B. Minors
       1. The Library assumes that minors between the ages of eight and eighteen who are at the Library unattended have parental permission to use its resources, including the Internet.
       2. Children under age eight must be accompanied by an adult when using any computer.
       3. The computer room adjacent to the reference area is for use by patrons fourteen years old or older.
   C. Users' Privacy. The Library will not release information on the use of specific Internet resources by members of the public except as required by law. [See Confidentiality of Patron Records, Policy 1.8.]
   D. Wireless Computer Access. Wireless access to the Internet is available to patrons. The Library does not assume responsibility for wireless use.
   E. Prohibited practices. Internet users may not:
       1. Display sexually explicit or obscene images or graphic illustrations of extreme violence;
       2. Transmit or disseminate obscenity, child pornography or materials harmful to minors;
       3. Alter computer configurations or otherwise damage Library computers;
       4. Upload information from a compact disc or flashdrive or download software to a Library computer;
       5. Violate copyright or other intellectual property rules;

6. Use computers to gain access to computers or computer systems for which they are not authorized;
7. Engage in any activity that is harassing, defamatory or invasive of privacy;
8. Conduct a business or distribute unauthorized advertising;
9. Engage in any illegal use of the Internet.

II. Violations

A. Violations of the prohibitions listed above may result in suspension or loss of any or all Library privileges.

B. Users are responsible for any damage that results from misusing Library computers. Parents will be responsible for damage caused by their minor children.

III. Disclaimers

A. Patrons use the Library's Internet resources at their own risk, and it is their responsibility to evaluate the validity and appropriateness of information found.

B. Neither the wireless network nor the Library's computers are secure: third parties may be able to obtain users' personal information and to monitor their activities.

C. Library staff will not provide technical assistance or devote significant amounts of time to assisting patrons in the use of the computer.

D. The Library assumes no responsibility for damage, theft or loss of any kind to a user's wireless computer equipment at the Library. The Library further disclaims responsibility for any alterations of or interference with a laptop's configurations, operation or data files resulting from connection to the wireless network.

Approved June 28, 2007; supersedes Policy 1.3 of May 20, 2004