Rideau Lakes Public Library
Internet Policy

Internet Service Philosophy

Internet access is provided at the Rideau Lakes Public Library locations in keeping with the Library's mission to enrich, inform and educate the Rideau Lakes community. The Library considers Internet resources an extension of our material collections for Library users. The Internet is one of the richest resources available to our patrons.

Children and the Internet

While recognizing that the Internet provides access to a vast array of tools and resources for different age levels and points of view, the Rideau Lakes Public Library does not act in the place or in the absence of a parent and is not responsible for enforcing any restrictions which a parent or guardian may place on a minor's use of this resource.

As with books, magazines, videos and other material, there will be some items which patrons may find controversial or inappropriate, for themselves and/or particularly their children. An adult must supervise his/her child's Internet sessions when children are under 14 and are encouraged to supervise access for adolescents.

The Library may provide a mix of filtered and unfiltered Internet workstations. On filtered workstations, commercial filtering software, aimed at blocking sites that contain pornography and graphic sexual images, may be installed. The Library assumes no liability in the event the filter is not 100% effective. It is the supervising adult's decision about which workstation the child may use.

Not all sources provide accurate, complete, age appropriate or current information. Users should evaluate Internet sources as they would print publications. It is the user's responsibility to question the validity of the information.

Library Internet Responsibilities

The Library staff will:
* make users aware of our Internet access policy and procedures through signage and brochures
* take reasonable measure to ensure the privacy and confidentiality of patrons while they use the Internet
* make all workstations available to all members of the public
* provide staff assistance to library Internet users where time and knowledge permits
* inspect and report suspected illegal sites.

The Library:
- assumes responsibility only for the information provided on its own web pages
- cannot control the availability of information links that often change rapidly
- assumes no responsibility for any direct or indirect damages arising from the use of its connection to the Internet
- assumes no responsibility for the effectiveness and adequacy of any filter or the content provided through it. No filtering product can block all offensive sites.

Library Patron Responsibilities

All users of the Internet at the Library are expected to use this resource in a responsible manner and comply with these Internet access and use guidelines.

1) It is the user's responsibility to question the validity of information.

2) All members of the public may use the workstations but children 14 and under must be supervised by a parent, guardian or responsible adult. Library staff will not supervise children on the Internet.

3) Be aware that workstations are public areas shared by people of all ages and sensibilities. Complete privacy cannot be guaranteed. Each user is ultimately responsible for the selection of sites and should be aware that other library users may be involuntarily exposed to what is displayed.

4) Patrons are expected to respect the privacy of others using public Internet access stations.

5) All patrons must sign a waiver, which is kept on file at the Library branch. Children 18 years of age and under must have a parental signature on the waiver.

6) Unless participating in a library tutorial, no more than two persons are permitted at an Internet workstation at any time.

7) Where permitted by copyright, users may print the information at the posted rate.

8) Patrons must book their Internet access beforehand. Library staff will set appropriate time limits.

9) At the end of Internet sessions, users must exit the Internet and log off.

Library Patron Responsibilities (cont'd)

The following activities are prohibited:
- use of the workstations for illegal, actionable or criminal purposes or to seek access to unauthorized areas
- infringement of copyright
- use of personal disks and software programs unless a personal disk is purchased from the Library and is used only within the Library
- subverting or attempting to subvert any security devices in either software or hardware format which the Library has installed on its workstations
- installing or attempting to install viruses or other programs designed to damage or alter software at workstations, or the Internet, or seeking unauthorized access to any other computer station
- sending unsolicited commercial material or spamming
- misrepresenting oneself to another user
- attempting to modify or gain access to files, passwords or data belonging to others
- downloading programs and/or files from the Internet into Library computers
- vandalism or theft of Library property
- accessing of chat lines.

Consequences of violating Internet access and use guidelines

Users in violation of the library's Internet policy and procedures will have their Internet privileges revoked.

Misuse or abuse of computers or programs is not acceptable. Offenders will be required to leave the Library.

Patrons using the Library's Internet workstations for illegal purposes may be subject to prosecution. Vandalism or theft of Library property will be reported to the police.