

# **New Port Richey Public Library Internet Acceptable Use Policy**

## **Introduction**

The New Port Richey Public Library provides direct access to the Internet to help support the independent education of individuals, in accordance with the Library's overall mission. The Internet vastly increases the variety of resources available to Library users. The same standards of intellectual freedom, privacy, and confidentiality endorsed for traditional resources and services also apply to the Internet. The Library's policies governing the purchase of resources are not applicable to resources accessed electronically.

The Library does not endorse the viewpoints or vouch for the accuracy of information obtained through the Internet. The Internet is an unregulated medium that allows access to a wealth of materials that can be personally, professionally and culturally enriching to individuals of all ages. However, it also enables access to material that might be offensive, disturbing, illegal, inaccurate, or incomplete. Library members use the Internet and electronic databases at their own risk. The Library assumes no responsibility, and will have no liability for any direct, indirect, or consequential damages arising from the use of its database server or from the use of its electronic resources or those obtained via the Internet.

## **User Responsibility**

Users are encouraged to evaluate the validity and appropriateness of information accessed via the Internet. Each individual user must accept responsibility for choosing which electronic resources they will access. The Library does not censor access to resources or protect users from offensive information. Since the Internet is not secure, each user accepts personal and financial responsibility for information transmitted or received.

## **Children's Access and Internet Use**

The Library does not have the right or responsibility to act in the place of the parent (in loco parentis). As with all Library resources, any restriction of a child's access to the Internet is the sole responsibility of the parent or legal guardian. Parents or guardians are encouraged to work closely with their children in selecting and using materials and resources that are consistent with their own family viewpoints or values. The Library urges parents or guardians to supervise their children's Internet sessions.

## Acceptable Use

All users of electronic information resources such as the Internet are expected to use these resources in a responsible manner, consistent with the educational and informational purposes for which they are provided. It is unacceptable to use the Library's computer systems and Internet resources for any purposes that violate the law or library policies.

The following is a list of unacceptable uses:

- Viewing material that violates federal, state, or local laws or regulations, including those regarding accessing, viewing, printing, and distributing obscenity or child pornography.
- Sending, receiving, or displaying text or graphics containing depictions of sex or extreme violence.
- Engaging in any activity which is deliberately and maliciously offensive, libelous or slanderous, or which creates an intimidating or hostile environment.
- Violating another user's privacy.
- Using another person's library card for Internet access.
- Using computers to gain access to the Library's internal network or computer system or to any other restricted network or computer system.
- Using computer accounts, access codes, or network identification numbers without authorized permission.
- Attempting in any way to alter, damage, abuse, or sabotage computer hardware or software; alter configurations; or install any software.
- Violating copyright laws or licensing agreements pertaining to software, files, or other resources obtained electronically.
- Disrupting or interfering with network users or services. Such interference or disruption includes, but is not limited to: distribution of unsolicited advertising, harassment of others, propagation of computer worms or viruses, randomly initiating interactive electronic communications, or overuse of interactive network utilities.
- Tampering with, destroying or damaging equipment, software, or data belonging to the library.

**Anyone who violates this Internet Acceptable Use Policy will have Internet privileges automatically suspended for a minimum of 30 days. Serious violations may result in criminal trespass and/or arrest.**