

## 1.3 INTERNET ACCESS POLICY

### Policy Statement

In order to meet the information needs of Town citizens, the North Branford Library Department has established public computers with access to the Internet. The Internet is an electronic information network connecting computer resources throughout the world. The library is unable to monitor or control the content of material through this medium. While much of the information on the Internet is of very high quality, some material may not be accurate, authoritative, appropriate, or timely.

As a recipient of federal telecommunications funds, the library will comply with the requirements of CIPA, the Children's Internet Protection Act. However, parents or guardians of children under 18 are responsible for their children's use of the Internet. The library shall not be responsible for supervising, monitoring, or controlling use of the Internet.

---

### Disclaimers

Not all sources on the Internet provide information that is accurate, complete, current, or legal. The North Branford Library staff is unable to monitor or control the content of the materials on the Internet, which change rapidly and unpredictably. Therefore, the Library (the Department, its Board, and its staff) makes the following disclaimers concerning each patron's use of the Internet:

- The Library and the Town make no warranties of any kind, whether expressed or implied, for the service it is providing.
- The Library and the Town expressly disclaim liability and shall not be held liable for any material obtained through the Library's web site or its Internet access or the use of such material even if the material is unlawful, incomplete, incorrect, or harmful in any way. Use of information obtained from these resources is made at the user's risk, and the Library and the Town of North Branford shall not have any liability for the accuracy or quality of the information obtained through these resources.
- The Library does not endorse the content of any material obtained from the Internet.
- The Library and the Town shall not be liable for, and each assumes the risk of, damages suffered by reason of errors or omissions of the user, of any patron, or of any Library staff member. Such damage may include, but is not limited to, loss of data resulting from delay, non-delivery, mis-delivery, or service interruption

The Library does not guarantee successful connections to the Internet.

The Library recognizes patrons' rights of privacy and confidentiality; however, Internet security is technically difficult to achieve, and electronic communications and files could become public. The Library and the Town shall not be responsible for, and each user assumes the risk of, loss or damage resulting to a user from such breach of privacy or confidentiality.

### **Acceptable Use Regulations**

The electronic information resources of the North Branford Library Department shall be used only in accordance with these regulations:

- No commercial or illegal use is permitted.
- No pornographic material shall be accessed.
- All users and, as appropriate, their parents or guardians, shall evaluate the resources available on the Internet and shall access the Internet at their own risk.
- Users shall not attempt to violate the computer system's security nor attempt to access the hard drive or other files, networks, or computer systems of the Library, other than programs that are specifically permitted on the patron screen set up for the user.
- In order to prevent computer viruses, which are common on public computers, users shall not install or download non-Library software programs on Library computers.
- Users shall not store any data on the Library's computers, other than as permitted on the patron screen set up for the User.
- The Library is not responsible for the integrity, preservation, or privacy of any data stored on a Library-owned device, when such storage is permitted by the Library.
- Users shall not knowingly destroy, degrade, or disrupt electronic information, software, or equipment. That activity may be considered a crime and includes, for example, tampering with computer hardware and software, vandalizing or modifying data without permission, invoking computer viruses, attempting to gain access to restricted or unauthorized networks or network services, or violating copyright laws or software license agreements.

### **Minors and the Use of the Internet**

Parents and guardians of children under 18 are responsible for their children's use of the Internet. Parents and guardians are strongly advised to supervise their children's Internet sessions. Children under the age of eight should be accompanied at all times by a parent or responsible adult. CIPA compliance does not guarantee that a computer user will not come into contact with objectionable material.

### **Training and Education**

The availability of Library staff to help users with computer and Internet use is limited. There may not always be a staff member on duty with the ability to solve computer problems. Users

are expected to have a basic working knowledge of computer operations and Internet methods, including the ability to use a mouse.

### **Interruption of Service and Maintenance**

The Library staff may interrupt a patron's Internet use if access is required for library business purposes, periodic maintenance, technical difficulties, or staff use.

### **Penalties for Violations**

The use of Library information resources is a privilege, not a right.

Any user of electronic information resources who is found to have violated any provision of these regulations shall be subject to having his or her computer and Library access privileges suspended or revoked.

All users shall be required to compensate the Town of North Branford, the Library, and others for any and all damage caused by their violation of these regulations.

### **Amendments**

The Library reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to amend these Regulations and to modify and suspend Internet use privileges.