

ST. CATHARINES PUBLIC LIBRARY**POLICY**

Section: General Number: G10	Subject: Internet Use Policy	Motion #: 99-80
Approval Date: April 15/99	Effective Date: April 15/99	Review: Annual
Notes: Revised February 2009.		

POLICY STATEMENT

The purpose of this Policy is to provide the framework for public access to the Internet.

The Library provides public access to ensure equal access to information and resources, and to meet the educational, recreational, and informational needs of the community.

The Library maintains web sites on its Home Page that link to quality information resources.

Definitions

Internet access refers to the databases available over the World Wide Web, including connections to other Internet services.

Regulations

1. Internet users should evaluate information gathered from this source as they would evaluate library materials in other formats. Information found on the Internet is not controlled or regulated therefore, accuracy, reliability, and authority can not be guaranteed.
2. The Library has no control over the information accessed through the Internet, and is not responsible for its content. The Library assumes no responsibility for any damages, direct or indirect, arising from the use of its Internet access.
3. Children's access to all information resources in the Library, including the Internet and other electronic networks, is the responsibility of parents and guardians.
4. The Library reserves the right to establish guidelines to facilitate and accommodate public access to the Internet.

Implementation

This Policy shall be implemented by the C.E.O.

Procedural Guidelines

1. Staff assistance to Internet users is available.
2. Use is limited to 60 minutes per day.
3. Only one person may use an Internet workstation at one time (exception – parent and child).
4. The user is responsible for determining the accuracy of the information retrieved.
5. Children's access to the Internet is the responsibility of the parent or legal guardian.
6. Printouts are available at a cost of \$0.20 per page for black and white and \$0.50 per page for colour.
7. Software installation, running programs from disks or CD-ROMs, altering or attaching equipment to Library hardware, or changing software configurations is not allowed.
8. Internet workstations are provided for Library-related educational, informational, and recreational purposes only. Use of the Library's Internet workstations to receive or display sexually suggestive materials and text and/or graphics that are illegal, obscene, or offensive is prohibited. Library staff has the authority to end an Internet session when such material displays on the screen.
9. Violation of the policies and guidelines that govern the use of the Library's Internet resources may result in suspension or loss of the privilege to use these resources. Illegal activity involving the Library's Internet resources will be subject to prosecution by the appropriate authorities.

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