

Lafayette Public Library  
Electronic Resources Policy

Revised - 1/22/2007

I. MISSION

The mission of Lafayette Public Library is to enhance the quality of life of our community by providing free and equal access to high-quality, cost-effective library services that meet the needs and expectations of our diverse community for information, life-long learning, recreation, and cultural enrichment.

This policy addresses the use of the Library's electronic resources, including hardware, software, and access to the Internet, databases, and other resources provided to users both inside the library and remotely.

II. RESPONSIBILITIES OF USERS

Online resources contain a wealth of information. Users should be aware that the Internet is an unregulated and rapidly changing medium. Some information on the Internet may be inaccurate, outdated, incomplete, or offensive or disturbing to some users. Because the Lafayette Public Library receives federal funds for Internet access, all public and staff computers with Internet access are equipped with software that is designed to block access to sites that contain visual depictions of obscenity, child pornography, or materials "harmful to minors" as currently defined by law. However, filtering software is not infallible and despite these provisions patrons may still find materials that contain obscenity, child pornography or materials "harmful to minors". For this reason, patrons must assume responsibility for their own use of the Internet. Parents who are concerned about the contents of the Internet are strongly advised to closely supervise their children's use of this service. This includes but is not limited to the safety and security of minors when using e-mail, chat rooms and other social sites and forums, blogs, instant messaging, texting, and other forms of direct electronic communications.

The Library will, upon written request of the parent, disable a child's library card from electronic privileges. The Library cannot constantly monitor activities of users and cannot guarantee a parent that the child will not find other ways to circumvent this prohibition. Parents wishing to prevent their minor child from accessing the library's electronic resources are strongly advised to supervise and monitor their child's visits to the library.

Filtering software may also block constitutionally protected material on the Internet. At the request of a patron 17 years of age or older, the library will

temporarily disable the blocking software without significant delay for bona fide research or other lawful purposes.

The library staff has the right to monitor and determine the appropriateness of workstation use and can require a patron to leave the workstation. Misuse of library computers or violation of this policy will result in the loss of computer privileges, potential loss of library privileges, and possible criminal prosecution. Illegal activity will be reported to the authorities.

### III. PROHIBITED USES

1. Internet computers shall not be used for illegal activities, to access illegal materials, or to access materials that are obscene or contain child pornography. Viewing, downloading, or printing from inappropriate sites in violation of local, state or federal laws is prohibited.
2. Transmitting and/or receiving of obscene materials and/or child pornography are a violation of law and are not permitted under any circumstances.
3. Minors, whether or not accompanied by a parent or guardian, shall not use computers for illegal activities, to access illegal materials or to access materials that are obscene or contain child pornography, or materials "harmful to minors" as currently defined by law.
4. Turning off or rebooting computers is not allowed. Deliberately altering computer settings, hacking or manipulation of computer hardware or software is prohibited. Patrons may not use their own software on library computers.
5. Users shall respect all copyright laws and licensing agreements.
6. Public library computers are neither private nor secure. Users shall respect the privacy of other users and shall refrain from attempting to view or read materials being used by others.
7. Cyberstalking or sending harassing messages to other computer users is not permitted. Users shall refrain from using inappropriate language in chat rooms. Messages containing sexual acts or sexual contacts (real or imagined) are not allowed.
8. Unauthorized use, hacking, or other illegal means of accessing websites, information portals, computer systems, networks, and other electronic resources for profit, criminal mischief, or any other reason is not permitted. This includes unauthorized use of a credit, debit, and other cards and accounts.
9. Remote use of the Library's electronic databases, reserving a library computer in-house, printing from library computers, and accessing certain in-house and remote services require users to enter their library card and PIN number for authentication. Unauthorized use of a Library card to access these services is considered unauthorized use under this policy.

#### IV. SAFETY

The Library claims no responsibility when users disclose, use, and disseminate personal information (i.e. social security numbers, credit card numbers, checking accounting numbers, PINs) over the Internet. For this reason, adults are strongly urged to give serious consideration before disclosing personal information and parents are strongly advised to closely supervise their children's use of this service.

#### V. COSTS

There is no charge for the use of the online workstations or to access the information therein; however, patrons shall assume printing costs at the posted rate.

#### Definitions:

A user or patron is described by the Library as an adult or minor who uses the Library's facilities, resources, and/or materials, including both cardholders and non-cardholders.

"Child pornography" as defined in 18 U.S.C. 2256.

"Minor" is a person under the age of 17. 47 U.S.C.A. 254(h)(7)(D).

"Harmful to minors" as defined in 47 U.S.C.A. 254(h)(7)(D).

"Obscenity" as defined by the federal obscenity statute, 18 U.S.C. 2256.

"Sexual act" and "Sexual contact" as defined in 18 U.S.C. 2246.

*Original policy approved by Lafayette Public Library Board of Control  
August 25, 1998*

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