

## **INTERNET USE AND SAFETY POLICY EAST BONNER COUNTY LIBRARY DISTRICT**

The intent of this policy is to meet the provisions of the [Children's Internet Protection Act \(CIPA\)](#) [Pub. L. No. 106-554 and 47 USC 254(h)] and [Idaho Code 33-2741](#), as well as provide guidelines for patrons and staff regarding library computers and wireless internet at all branches of the East Bonner County Library District (hereinafter referred to as the Library).

The Library seeks to protect the First Amendment rights of its patrons and their individual right to privacy. The Library avoids collecting or maintaining records that could compromise patron privacy.

In fulfillment of its role as a public library in American society, the Library aims to provide free and open access to information for educational, recreational and cultural uses by library patrons of all ages and backgrounds. The Library will provide access to the Internet as an integral part of fulfilling this purpose. The same standards of intellectual freedom, privacy and confidentiality endorsed by the Library for traditional resources and services also apply to electronic media, including usage of the Internet.

It is the policy of the Library to: (a) prevent computer network user access to, or transmission of, illegal material via Internet, electronic mail, or other forms of direct electronic communications; (b) prevent unauthorized access and other unlawful online activity; (c) prevent unauthorized online disclosure, use, or dissemination of personal identification information of minors; and (d) comply with CIPA.

Library employees are authorized to take prompt and appropriate action to enforce this policy and other provisions of the Library's Code of Conduct.

### **ACCEPTANCE STATEMENT**

Use of a library computer or library wireless network at any facility owned or operated by the Library is considered acceptance of this policy. Patrons will reaffirm the agreement each time they use a library computer or access wireless internet provided by the Library.

### **RESPONSIBILITIES OF LIBRARY PATRONS**

It is the individual user's responsibility to follow the Library Code of Conduct while using library computers or their own devices to connect to the Library's public wireless network.

Internet users must be aware that workstations are in public areas, especially when accessing information that may be offensive to someone else, and that images on the screen may be subject to view by a wide audience. Not all content on the Internet is appropriate for viewing by all library patrons.

Patrons are not permitted to invade the privacy of other library patrons, to harass library staff or patrons, to damage or disrupt library computer resources, or to send “spam” in violation of federal, state, or local laws or ordinances.

Other prohibited behaviors include, but may not be limited to:

- Circumventing or attempting to circumvent library time management software on library computers
- Changing the settings and configurations of library computers, including disconnecting power or Ethernet cables
- Using library computers for unauthorized access, including so-called “hacking,” or other unlawful activities
- Unauthorized disclosure, use, and dissemination of personal identification information regarding minors
- Failure to pay printing charges incurred by the user
- Any actions that impede other community members’ use of the Library, as described in the Code of Conduct

### **USE BY MINORS**

Library computer use will not be granted to a minor without consent from a parent or legal guardian. The Library does not serve *in loco parentis* (in place of a parent). Library staff do not supervise children as they explore the Internet. The responsibility for what minors read, view and share on the Internet rests with the parents or legal guardians who grant permission for its use.

In compliance with Idaho Code 33-2741 and CIPA, no minor may view materials harmful to juveniles in violation of federal, state, or local laws or ordinances.

### **INDEMNIFICATION**

The availability of information does not constitute endorsement of the content by the Library. Patrons who choose to use the Internet as an information resource do so at their own risk.

The Library does not monitor, and has no control over the information accessed through the Internet and is not responsible for its content. The Library has no means or statutory authority to assure that only constitutionally protected material is available on the Internet.

All library computers are filtered. Although content filtering mechanisms are in place, no known filtering solution is 100% effective. Words, images or sounds that could be considered inappropriate or offensive by a library patron may not be blocked. The same filter could block other constitutionally protected information that a patron may wish to access.

The Library shall not be liable for any direct or indirect loss or damages caused by patron use of Library computers or wireless internet.

## **RESPONSE TO PROHIBITED BEHAVIORS AND CONTENT**

The First Amendment to the U. S. Constitution does not protect all content. No Library District computer may be used to view or display obscenity, child pornography, or other illegal content, as described by CIPA and Idaho Code 33-2741. The legal status of any particular content can be determined only by a court of law with proper jurisdiction.

Misuse of a library computer or wireless network will result in the loss of computer privileges, potential loss of library privileges and possible prosecution.

An individual whose behavior violates Library policy will be warned about the specific behavior that is prohibited. If the violation continues after a warning, or if other inappropriate behavior is demonstrated, he or she may be asked to leave the Library. An incident report will be prepared and filed with the library director (see the Library's Code of Conduct for details regarding enforcement.)

If a patron or staff member observes behavior or content that may be illegal, either the patron or the staff may report it to a supervisor or the director. The Library will not judge the legality of content, but will help refer a concern about illegal conduct or content to the appropriate department of law enforcement.

This Policy document will be reviewed by the East Bonner County Library District Board at least every three years.

Adopted circa 1995.  
Amended November 13, 2000.  
Revised December 9, 2002  
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Board of Trustees  
East Bonner County Free Library District