PUBLIC COMPUTER AND INTERNET USE POLICY

Purpose

Part of the mission of the Islip Public Library is to ensure that residents of the Islip School District have free and open access to information and technological resources in a welcoming environment that fosters exploration of ideas. As information resources, computers and the Internet enhance the Library's collection in size and depth and give opportunity to all residents who wish to navigate the Internet. The Islip Public Library provides free access to computers and the Internet for educational, informational, and recreational use.

Nature of the Internet

The Internet is a global electronic network that enhances the materials available at the Library and that makes a universe of worthwhile and valuable information available. However, users should be aware that the Internet is an unregulated source that contains materials which may be inaccurate, dated, incomplete, biased, inappropriate, or offensive. The Islip Public Library has no control of the Internet and its resources. In offering Internet access, library staff cannot control access points which often change rapidly and unpredictably. Users should carefully judge the authority and accuracy of these sources of information as they would any other resource. Users, and particularly parents and guardians, should be aware that the Internet enables access to some material that may be considered objectionable, inappropriate, or offensive.

Children's Use of the Internet

Parents or legal guardians must assume responsibility for deciding which library resources are appropriate for their own children. It is not possible for staff to control specific information children may locate on the Internet. Monitoring or restriction of a child's access to the wireless connection is the sole responsibility of the parent/guardian.

Internet Filter

The Islip Public Library complies with the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) and the Neighborhood Children's Protection Act (NCIPA). All computers in the Islip Public Library are filtered. Users should be aware that filers are unreliable, at times blocking sites of legitimate information or educational value, or allowing access to sites that are illegal, obscene, or sexually explicit.

Parents or legal guardians, and not the Library or its staff, remain responsible for monitoring their children's use of the Internet and for the information selected and/or accessed by their children. The Library strongly encourages parents or legal guardians to supervise their children's Internet use and to provide them with guidelines about acceptable use.

Wireless Internet Connection

The Islip Public Library provides wireless Internet connectivity to all library users. Library users connecting to the Library's wireless connection on their personal devises are still responsible to follow the Library's acceptable use regulations as stated below. Internet filtering is in effect throughout the Library's wireless connection.

Privacy

While the Library provides wireless connectivity to the Internet, the Library does not guarantee that the use of the wireless connection is in any way secure or private. Library Computer users should not have an expectation of privacy, particularly when the computer screen and/or printout can be viewed by others. The Internet is not a secure medium, and users should be aware that third parties might be able to obtain information regarding users' activities. However, the Library will not release information on the specific Internet resources by members of the public except as required by law or necessary for the proper operation of the Library.

Files saved onto the Library's public computers are automatically erased on a daily basis. These files are not recoverable; users are responsible for saving their work on external storage devises or cloud storage services. Users are responsible for their own appropriate use, secure browsing and sharing, and safeguarding of their personal information on the Internet. The Library's wireless connection is public and insecure.

Acceptable Use

Library computer users are responsible for using the Internet and library computers appropriately. Use of the Library's wireless connections, Internet access, or computer equipment that is inappropriate or inconsistent with this policy may result in termination of the computer session, termination or revocation of Internet / computer privileges, and/or suspension of Library privileges. A patron who wishes to appeal his/her termination of the right to use Library computers or Library privilege shall file a written request to appeal with the Board of Trustees within 30 days of action taken. The request shall be viewed by the Board or Trustees at their next regularly scheduled meeting.

The Library uses reservation software to schedule computer appointments. During times of high usage, limited building hours, or any reason deemed warranted by the Library Director or Library Board, additional restrictions may be put into effect to restrict both the number and duration of appointments.

User of the Library's public computers and Internet access and wireless network are responsible at all times for appropriate usage. Patrons are prohibited from the following:

1. using the Library's Internet service inappropriately or for an unlawful purpose including, but not limited to displaying, printing, transmitting or distributing threatening material;

expressions of bigotry, racism, or hate; cyber-bullying; obscene or sexually explicit material (obscene or sexually explicit material is defined as text, pictures or sound which the average adult applying contemporary community standards would find primarily appeals to a prurient interest in sex and lacks serious literary, artistic, political or scientific value); material considered trade secret; material likely to be offensive or objectionable to recipients; or the copying of commercial software;

- misrepresenting oneself as another user;

- attempting to modify or gain access to files, passwords or data belonging to others;

- seeking unauthorized access to any computer system;

- damaging or altering public computer software and/or hardware components, including changing settings of Library computers;

- interfering with the use of the Library's computers or Internet access by others;

- operating a server of any kind for the purpose of uploading data to the Internet or other Internet users' computers;

- using the Library's public Internet access to conduct any business or commercial activity for financial gain; and

- participating in activities that could cause congestion and disruption of network and systems.

Assistance / Instruction

The Islip Public Library does not provide computer instruction/assistance or Internet tutoring except through its in-house workshops. A degree of computer expertise is assumed of users. Assistance/instruction by staff at the public computers or on personal devices is otherwise restricted to durations of no more than five minutes.

Library staff are unable to provide any computer or Internet instruction that requires close person-to-person contact or handling of Library or patron computer equipment.

Library Non-liability

The Islip Public Library assumes no responsibility or any liability for lost profits; for any damages, direct or indirect, arising from the use of its computers or Internet connections; or any liability to a third party. Users assume all associated risks and agree to hold harmless the Library for any personal information that is compromised, or any damage caused to users' hardware or

software due to electrical surges, security issues, viruses, or hacking. Users assume all associated risks and agree to hold harmless the Library for any health-related consequences associated with using publicly shared equipment such as keyboards, mouses, printers, and other items.