

## **Internet Policy**

The Itasca Community Library (ICL) in accordance with its mission provides resources in a wide variety of formats to meet the cultural, informational, recreational, and educational needs of the diverse, multicultural community it serves. The Internet is an integral part of the resources available to assist library users in finding the information they need.

The Internet is a global electronic network. ICL does not monitor Internet use, has no control over the information accessed through the Internet, and cannot be held responsible for its content. The Internet may contain material of a controversial nature. ICL complies with the federal Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) which requires the use of filtering software. However, filtering software may not block all material users might find offensive. Parents are encouraged to supervise their children's Internet sessions.

The Internet is a continually evolving resource and the information and links on the Internet change rapidly and unpredictably. The library cannot guarantee the accuracy or completeness of information on the Internet. Users should carefully evaluate the information they find when using this resource. ICL does not encrypt data sent or received through our Internet services.

**Guidelines for Internet Use:** To achieve an atmosphere conducive to the best use of its resources, the Library has developed the following rules regarding the use of public computers

Users may not use the Internet for any illegal activity or place any material on the Internet related to any illegal activity. Users may not invade the privacy of others or engage in any activity that is harassing, defamatory, or threatening; or receive or display graphics which may reasonably be construed as obscene as defined by law.

The library is not responsible for any commercial transactions conducted by registered users on Library equipment.

The library's staff will assist patrons with Internet use and other software packages as time permits but cannot offer personal instruction.

It is the responsibility of users to respect copyright laws and licensing agreements and assume responsibility for payment of fees for any fee-based service.

The library cannot protect users from information and images that they may find offensive or disturbing.

ICL does not prohibit Internet use regardless of age. Parents or legal guardians, not library staff is solely responsible for deciding which Internet resources are appropriate for their own children. Children who use the Internet unsupervised may be exposed to inappropriate information and images. We encourage parents to learn about the

Internet so that they can teach their children how to use technology properly and make wise choices. It is the responsibility of parents to warn their children of the inherent dangers of disclosing or disseminating personally identifiable information such as home addresses, phone numbers, or the location and nature of the child's school.

Library users are cautioned that the Internet is not a secure medium and all transactions, files, and communications may be vulnerable to unauthorized access and therefore should be considered public.

Users must sign up with the PC Reservation system before using an Internet computer. There are time limits on computer use per day; the limit may vary according to location, and level of demand. No one may sign up for usage during the last 15 mins. Computers are programmed to automatically shut down 15 mins. before the closing of the library. Patrons are requested to end their sessions in a timely manner.

Users may download to a storage device. The library does not sell or provide storage devices. The library is not responsible for any loss or damage to personal disks or storage devices when downloading. The library is not responsible for any information lost during the closing down process of the computers.

ICL prohibits the following activities:

- Use the library's workstations as a staging ground to gain unauthorized access to the library's networks or computer systems or to any other network or computer system.
- Obstruct the work of others by consuming gratuitously large amounts of system resources or by deliberately crashing any Library computer system.
- Display images, sounds, or messages in a way that will negatively affect those who find them objectionable or offensive.
- Make any attempt to damage computer equipment or software.
- Make any attempt to alter software configurations in a malicious manner.
- Make any attempt to cause degradation of system performance.
- Use any Library workstation for illegal or criminal purpose.
- Engage in any activity which is deliberately and maliciously offensive, libelous or slanderous.
- Represent yourself as another person for purposes of fraud or other illegal activity.

**ILLEGAL ACTS INVOLVING LIBRARY RESOURCES MAY BE SUBJECT TO PROSECUTION BY LOCAL, STATE OR FEDERAL OFFICIALS.**

The library reserves the right to terminate an Internet session at any time.

## **Wireless Internet Access**

The Itasca Community Library (ICL) also offers wireless "WiFi" access to the library's Internet. Most users may simply bring their wireless-enabled laptop computer or other wireless device to the library and turn it on. However, the library can make no guarantees as to compatibility of the equipment with the library's network. Users are responsible for knowing how to configure their own device and laptop. ICL cannot be responsible for any changes made to the computer's settings.

Wireless access is available all hours the library building is open. The entire building is wireless accessible however signal strength may vary and is not guaranteed. The library does not provide wireless cards. Please note that the Library cannot assist users with laptop, card, or configuration. The library cannot accept the liability of handling user's equipment.

It is solely the responsibility of the wireless device user to provide anti-virus protection, and to configure their laptop/PDA settings to provide the appropriate security settings to control access from the Internet. ICL cannot and will not take responsibility for damages incurred for incorrect, insufficient or incomplete security settings; or lack of adequate or up-to-date virus protection. Wireless users assume all risks in this regard.

There is no printing capability to wireless users in the library.

Board Approved:

Official Policy February 16, 2010