Internet Use Policy

Purpose

BPL provides public access to the Internet in keeping with the Library's mission to support lifelong learning, community connections and the multiple literacy needs of the community. The Library considers Internet resources an extension of our material collections and is one of the richest information resources available to our customers.

As an unregulated online environment, information found on the Internet may not be accurate, complete or current. Not all sources provide accurate, age-appropriate, current, or legal information that is philosophically acceptable to everyone, and some content may be sexually explicit, controversial or offensive.

Policy

BPL collaborates with customers to provide safe, effective and equitable access to Internet in a learning environment that is comfortable for everyone. Children and young adults have access to all materials in the library, including the Internet. Intellectual Freedom is one of Burlington Public Library's core values and we subscribe to the fundamental principles of intellectual freedom and the open exchange of information and ideas. As with other library materials, responsibility for monitoring a child's access to Internet and other electronic products rests with parents and guardians. The Library assumes no responsibility for the security of online transactions and cannot guarantee privacy on the Internet. Messages and information about a user's activities may be subject to unauthorized interception by third parties.

Responsibilities

All library users, staff and volunteers are expected to use the Internet in a responsible manner and to comply with the following access and use guidelines:

- Internet users are subject to all applicable federal, provincial, and municipal legislation and by-laws that regulate Internet use, including provisions of the Criminal Code regarding obscenity, child pornography, sedition, and the incitement of hate. Library computers cannot be used for illegal, unethical, or criminal purposes or for access to unauthorized areas.
- Be aware that the workstations are in public areas shared by people of all ages and sensibilities. As the Library is a public setting, privacy cannot be guaranteed.
- Each user is ultimately responsible for the selection of sites and should be aware that other library users, including children, may be involuntarily exposed to what is displayed.
- Users are prohibited from displaying content that might reasonably offend others including overt sexual images. Staff are authorized to ask customers to stop using the Internet if their use is disturbing others.
- All members of the public, regardless of age may use any of the public workstations.

- Where permitted by copyright, users may print their information at the posted rate.
- At the end of computer sessions users must exit all programs and then click on the "EXIT" button in the bottom right hand corner of the screen.

BPL Responsibilities
The Library will:
- Use reasonable efforts to ensure compliance with the Internet Access Policy and guidelines.
- Inspect and report suspected illegal sites.

Limitations and Disclosures
- Burlington Public Library's wireless network is not secure; we cannot guarantee the safety of your traffic across the wireless network.
- Burlington Public Library will not assume any responsibility for the configurations, security, or files on your laptop resulting from connection to the library's network.
- Burlington Public Library is not responsible for any expenses incurred or the potential repercussions of a third party using personal/banking/credit card information that has been entered on a Library computer terminal or through BPL wifi.
- Burlington Public Library assumes no responsibility for any direct or indirect damages arising from the use of its connection to Internet services.
- To successfully connect to Burlington Public Library's wireless network, you must click on the I AGREE button from the Internet Access Policy page, indicating you have read and will abide by BPL's Internet Access Policy.

Prohibited Activities
- Use of workstations for illegal or criminal purposes or to seek access to unauthorized areas
- Infringement of copyright and other intellectual property rights; the library assumes no responsibility for such infringements
- Attempting to install viruses or other programs designed to damage or alter software
- Use of FTP or installing of software applications
- Subverting or attempting to subvert any security devices in either software or hardware format
- Sending unsolicited commercial material or "spamming"
- Misrepresenting oneself as another person
- Attempting to modify or gain access to files, passwords or data belonging to others
- Any activity, which interferes with or disrupts computer access, is prohibited.
- Vandalism or theft of library property

Accountability

Staff will respond to complaints or observed incidents of misuse of the Internet by any user. You could be asked to click away from an Internet site. Repeated violations will result in removal from the library. Violations of this Policy may result in suspension of library privileges and exclusion from the Library, as well as prosecution. The Library CEO and Directors are responsible for ensuring the policy is implemented and enforced.

Effective Date: June 20, 2019	Projected Review Date: 2023
Motion #/Date: 19 - #38	Amended Dates:
Associated Procedures:	