

LOUTIT DISTRICT LIBRARY INTERNET POLICY

The Loutit District Library ("the Library") is pleased to offer Internet access via Library computers and wireless access (when available). One-half hour is allotted for Library computer use when others are waiting, limited to two sessions per day. Specific computers are limited to card catalog and reference database use only and are clearly marked as such.

It must be understood that not all sources on the Internet provide information that is accurate, complete, current, or legal. The Internet may contain material of a controversial nature. The Loutit District Library is unable to monitor or control the content of materials on the Internet and does not guarantee the accuracy or currency of information obtained through the Internet. Neither the Loutit District Library, nor its officers, trustees, or employees shall be liable for any damages (direct or consequential) for any information obtained or personal information disclosed on the Internet.

Library staff cannot provide in-depth computer training or support. If assistance is needed, the Reference Librarians will assist in finding educational Library materials, web resources, or classes that are available.

Library patrons must use the computers and equipment in a manner that does not damage the equipment. No files may be downloaded onto the computer's hard drive, including the installation of software. Reconfiguration of software installed on the Library computers is prohibited.

In order to comply with the Children's Internet Protection Act ("CIPA") and Michigan Public Act No. 212 of 2000 ("Act 212"), all Library computers with Internet access are filtered to protect against visual depictions that are obscene, child pornography, or harmful to minors. While the use of filters is generally effective, the filters do not guarantee that all offensive material will be blocked. Parents or legal guardians remain responsible for their children's use of the Internet.

A patron who is at least 17 years of age may request Library staff to disable the filter for bona fide research or other lawful purposes. Upon such a request, the Library staff will disable the filter promptly upon verification of the patron's age by proper identification. The Library staff will not inquire into the reasons for the request to disable the filter. Upon completion of the patron's use of the unfiltered computer, the patron shall notify Library staff who shall re-enable the filter.

Wireless access provided for laptop computers of patrons is not filtered. Wireless access is available only to patrons who are adults or minors (under 18 years of age) accompanied by a parent or guardian. Patrons using their own laptop computers for wireless access are subject to and must comply with all requirements of this Policy.

In addition to any other provisions of this Policy, patrons shall not access visual depictions that are obscene or child pornography as defined by Federal law and shall not access or view obscene matter as defined in Act 212. Patrons who are minors for purposes of Federal law (under 17 years of age) shall not access visual depictions that are harmful to minors as defined by Federal law and patrons who are minors under State law (under 18 years of age) shall not access or view sexually explicit matter that is harmful to minors as defined in Act 212. Subject to other demands on staff time, the Library staff will make a good faith effort to monitor periodically the use of Library computers by minors (under 18 years of age). In light of the

fallibility of filters and demands on Library staff time, however, parents and legal guardians are responsible for their children's use of the Internet. Minors (under 18 years of age) shall use only those Library computers designated and posted for use by minors. Minors (under 18 years of age) are prohibited from using Library computers for chat or e-mail.

The Library will not disclose, use, or disseminate personal identification information regarding patrons as provided under the Michigan Library Privacy Act (MCL 397.601 et seq.), Federal law, or other applicable law.

In addition to any other provisions of this Policy, the Library's computers and Internet access shall not be used by any patron for any purpose that violates Federal or State laws (including, but not limited to, copyright and license laws and "hacking" or other unlawful access), the harassment of others, or for the sending, receiving, or displaying of any material that is fraudulent or defamatory. Any illegal acts involving the Library's Internet access will result in Grand Haven Public Safety being contacted and may be subject to prosecution by local, State, or Federal authorities.

The Library reserves the right to end an Internet session at any time. The Library reserves the right to suspend or restrict access to or use of the Internet or other Library privileges by patrons who violate this Policy. Patrons who commit succeeding violations may be subject to increased suspensions or restrictions on access to or use of the Internet or other Library privileges pursuant to the Library's procedures.

All Library patrons have the right to appeal an Internet violation decision to the Director within five (5) days after receiving notification of the violation. Appeals of Internet violations decisions must be presented in writing and must include the patron name, date and time of violation, the violation type and the patron's reason for challenge to the Internet violation decision

The Director will review the appeal with the computer lab staff concerning the incidents preceding the violation decision. The Director will respond in writing to the patron regarding the appeal. If not satisfied with the written response, the patron may make an appointment with the Director to discuss the matter further.

If the patron is still not satisfied with the Director's response, the matter will be referred to the Loutit District Library Policy Committee for review. The Committee will make a written response to the request. Should the patron wish a further hearing, he/she may bring the matter before the Board of Trustees during a regularly scheduled meeting.

Adopted by the Board of Trustees of Loutit District Library on June 22, 2004

Mary Jane Belter, Secretary