

Chelsea District Library
Policy and Procedure

Policy Section 4: **Facility and Equipment**
Board Approval Date: September 21, 1998
Board Approval Date: November 20, 2007

Subject 450: **Internet Access and Public Computing Use**

Background:

Chelsea District Library provides the residents of this community access to the Internet and public computers as a limited resource and a privilege for educational, informational and recreational purposes. All users of the Internet and public computers are expected to use these library resources in a responsible and courteous way, consistent with the purposes for which they are provided, and to follow all rules, regulations and procedures established for their use including, but not limited to, those of the Library.

The Library attempts to provide a secure and virus-free computing environment on all public workstations. In this effort, all workstations are equipped with virus-checking software, security protocols, and standard software to provide for the general needs of the users.

The library assumes no responsibility for any damages, direct or indirect, arising from its connections to the Internet or use of the public computers. No guarantees, either expressed or implied, are made by the library with respect to the quality or content of the information available on the Internet. Not all the information available is accurate, current or complete. Users are encouraged to be good information consumers by evaluating the validity of information accessed via the Internet. In compliance with Michigan's Public Act 212 of 2000¹, the library provides a filtering system for use by children [under the age of 18 years old] and as an option for adults.

Policy:

Access

- Library users access the Internet and public computers at their own discretion and are expected to abide by this policy and the Chelsea District Library's Code of Conduct.
- All users are required to register for access to the Internet.
- Library cards, Internet access cards or library barcode numbers may not be used by anyone except to whom they are registered.
- Parents or legal guardians of users under the age of 18 must select an appropriate filtering level.

¹ Michigan Public Act 212 of 2000, which revised the Library Privacy Act 455 of 1982: MCL 397.606 Restriction of Internet access to minors: immunity from liability; exceptions.

- Internet and public computer resources are provided equally to all library users, therefore session limitations and waiting queues may be required.
- All public computers and wireless access are available whenever the library is open unless the library is experiencing technical or other service difficulties.

Use

- All computer access must be used in a responsible manner, respecting the rights of others around them.
- Illegal activity as may be defined by applicable local, state or federal law. Any activity intended to disrupt or damage computers, equipment or network services are prohibited and subject to prosecution for violation.
- Internet users are cautioned that security on the Internet cannot be guaranteed, all transactions, files and communications are vulnerable to unauthorized access and use, and therefore should be considered public.
- Users may print to either a black & white or color laser printer for a nominal fee.
- Saving files to a workstation hard drive is prohibited; alternate storage options are available on all machines.
- Headphones are attached to each public workstation and users are allowed to use their own.
- Librarians and computer volunteers are happy to help as much as time and their knowledge allow.

Privacy

- The library, as in other aspects of library service, respects the privacy of all individuals in their use of information resources.
- Users should respect the privacy of others when using the public computers and should be sensitive to others' values and beliefs when accessing potentially controversial information and images.
- The library does not monitor or maintain records of users' Internet transactions, content or websites.
- Privacy screens are available and required at the discretion of the library staff on all public computer workstations.

Any library user not abiding by this policy, library practice or procedure will result in warnings to the user that their behavior is not acceptable and an explanation of what is acceptable. The patron could be required to leave the library building. Further failure to abide by library policy, practice or procedure could result in extended loss of access to the library and/or loss of library privileges as determined by the Library Director.

Users who feel wrongly accused under this policy may address their concerns in writing to the Library Director.

Any behavior or actions that violate local, state, or federal law will be immediately reported to the local police department for prosecution.

Adopted by the Chelsea District Library Board of Trustees

Kate McAuliffe, Secretary

Date