

Burlington Public Library
22 Sears Street
Burlington, MA 01803

Internet Acceptable Use Policy

The use of any Internet workstation or wireless network in the Burlington Public Library constitutes an acceptance of its Internet Use Policy.

The mission of the Burlington Public Library is to meet the informational, educational and recreational needs of its citizens. In conjunction with this mission the Library offers both wired and wireless access to the Internet, an unregulated global entity that is highly diverse and ever changing.

The Library is not accountable for the accuracy, content, nature, or quality of information obtained through the Internet, nor does the Library endorse viewpoints presented on the Internet. As with other library materials, the responsibility for determining what is useful or appropriate lies with the library patron or, in the case of minors, their parents or guardians.

1. The Burlington Public Library does not censor or filter its Internet workstations. Parents or legal guardians of children and teenagers (17 and under), not the Library or its staff, are responsible for the Internet information selected and/or accessed by their children.
2. For privacy and security reasons, Internet users are discouraged from providing personal information via the public access computers. The Library cannot guarantee the security and confidentiality of any transaction, particularly e-commerce transactions.
3. It is the responsibility of parents and guardians to caution their children against providing names, addresses and telephone numbers to strangers through chat rooms, instant messaging, e-mails and web sites. For more information on child safety and the Internet see www.missingkids.org (Click on "more publications" and scroll down to "Internet Safety".)
4. Accessing, displaying, or printing material that is inappropriate for public viewing or that meets the definitions of pornography, most especially child pornography, is prohibited. Blatantly offensive visual or text-based materials constitute potential sources of harassment to other patrons and to library staff and will not be tolerated.
5. Users may not tamper with, compromise, or endeavor to bypass library security or timer software in any way, nor attempt to alter or damage computer equipment, software or configurations owned by the library or any other network or database.
6. Users may not engage in any illegal activity on library computer networks, and must comply with all federal, state and local laws. For example, Library resources shall not be used in "hacking".
7. Users must comply with on-line copyright laws and licensing agreements.
8. Patrons may download acceptable information from the Internet to their own storage media, but not to the library's hard drives.
9. Patrons are asked to respect the privacy of people around them. Forbidden intrusive behaviors include but are not limited to:
 - a. Using someone else's user information
 - b. Retrieving someone else's printouts
 - c. Trying to gain access to someone else's search history
 - d. "Hovering" over other patrons while waiting to use the Internet

10. Parents are responsible for direct supervision of children age 7 or younger who have accompanied them to the library while either the adult or the child is using library computers or networks.

Compliance

The Library reserves the right to take appropriate action to insure compliance with this policy. Violations will result in the suspension of computer privileges, and may result in the suspension of library privileges. The Library may also assess charges for repair or replacement of software and/or hardware damaged or destroyed by violations of this policy.

Limitation of Liability

The Burlington Public Library will have no liability for direct, indirect or consequential damages related to the use of information accessed through the Library's Internet service.

Since software and information downloaded from any sources, including the Internet, may contain computer viruses, users are advised to utilize virus-checking software on their home computers. The Library is not responsible for damage to users' disks or computers or for any loss of data, damage or liability that may occur from use of the Library's computers.

The Board of Trustees reserves the right to amend this policy, and to rule on situations not specifically covered herein. The Board of Trustees and the Library Director shall review this policy as needed.

Reviewed July 8, 2010