

## **Internet and Internet Safety Policy Statement**

Adopted by Library Board of Trustees June 19, 2002

Recognizing that the Internet represents an important and vital electronic resource that allows access to ideas, information and commentary from around the world, the Pittsford Community Library is pleased to provide Internet access to Library users as part of its collection and resources, including those available from the Internet.

The Internet offers access to a wealth of excellent material. However, because the Internet provides easy access to a diverse array of resources, the Library does not endorse the viewpoints nor can it vouch for the accuracy, authority, timeliness or usefulness of all the information found on it. The Pittsford Community Library is not responsible for the content of sites on the Internet.

The Library offers a home page with recommended sites selected by librarians using standard evaluation criteria for electronic sources. Since not all sites on the Internet are accurate, current or complete, users must exercise critical judgment to evaluate the validity and appropriateness of the information found

In providing public access to the Internet, the Pittsford Community Library shall be in compliance with the Neighborhood Children's Internet Protection Act (N-CIPA). Per this compliance:

- As required by N-CIPA, the Library will, to the extent practical, block access to visual images that are defined by law as "obscene," "child pornography" or "harmful to minors."
- To the extent practical, steps will be taken to promote safety and security of minors. Use of the Internet is offered to those under 18 years of age upon their agreement that they:
  - ☒ will not give out or type in any information about themselves including email address without asking a parent first.
  - ☒ will consult with a parent before meeting anyone in the real world that they have met online.
  - ☒ will tell a parent if an email or instant message that makes them feel uncomfortable is received.
- Subject to staff supervision, filtering will be disabled for those over 18 years of age, only for bona fide research or other lawful purposes.

Users are reminded that the Library's ability to restrict access to images and information covered by N-CIPA is subject to the limitations of filtering software. The Library's above stated policy to comply with provisions of N-CIPA shall not relieve parents and legal guardians of their ultimate responsibility to monitor and guide their own children's use of all library resources, including the Internet. Parents are encouraged to take an active role in their children's use of the Internet and to talk about their personal values and expectations for their children's use of this resource.

### **General Rules and Limits regarding Internet access and computer use :**

1. Use of the Internet or library computers for activities that violate local, state or federal laws is prohibited. This includes activities such as committing fraud, hacking, or spreading libel or slander.
2. Patrons are cautioned that the Internet is not a secure medium and all transactions, files and communications may be subject to unauthorized access by third parties. The Library, however, will not release information on the use of electronic resources by members of the public except as required by law.
3. It is the responsibility of all users of electronic resources at the Pittsford Community Library to respect intellectual property rights. Copyright restrictions may exist for individual electronic resources. Patrons may only make copies allowable by copyright laws or licensed software agreements.
4. Users of the Library's computers and related peripheral equipment are expected to abide by the rules of the Library, including Rules of Conduct. Copies of these rules are available upon request at the Reference Desk. In accordance with the authority of the Pittsford Community Library Board of Trustees, persons who do not abide by these rules may be barred from the Library, prohibited from using computers or other library equipment and/or prosecuted for illegal activities.
5. Pittsford Community Library expressly disclaims any liability or responsibility arising from access to or use of information obtained through its electronic resources or any consequences thereof.

6. Library staff members are not to provide in-depth computer training but will answer questions and, as time allows, help users locate and use resources on the Internet or on other electronic resources in the Library.
7. In cases where Internet filtering software is disabled to facilitate legitimate research by patrons, the Library reserves the right to control the time, place and manner of such access to ensure that such use does not have a negative impact on the use of the Library by other patrons. The Library seeks to provide an atmosphere conducive to the best use of its resources. To this end, an effort will be made to balance the rights of users to access information resources with the rights of users and staff to work in a public setting free from disruptive sounds and visuals.
8. Patrons are reminded that the Library's computer terminals are located in public areas which are shared with library users and staff of all ages, backgrounds and sensibilities. Individuals are expected to consider this diversity and respect the sensibilities of others when accessing potentially offensive information or images.
9. Users shall not:
  - install, delete or modify library hardware or software
  - move or change the arrangement of library computers and attached equipment
  - download software from the Internet onto the Library's computers
  - use the network to make unauthorized entry into other computational, information or communication services or resources
  - make any attempt to damage computer equipment or software
  - make any attempt to cause degradation of system performance
  - misuse library computers or other equipment and resources