Policy on Public Use of the Internet
(Approved 4/20/98, revised 7/15/02, 4/16/07, 11/16/20)

Overview:

To fulfill its mission of providing public access to information in a variety of formats, the South Huntington Public Library offers internet access to the public. The Internet may be accessed using Library-owned computers and mobile devices, or by patron-owned equipment via a wireless internet connection.

Choosing and Evaluating Sources

The Internet, a world-wide network of computers, is an essential medium for obtaining and transmitting information of all types. Therefore, public access to the Internet is pertinent to the Library's mission. However, the Internet is an unregulated medium. It also provides access to information that is inaccurate, illegal, or that some may find offensive or disturbing. As such, library patrons use it at their own risk. Library staff can offer guidance on effective search strategies, and the Library may offer classes on evaluating information found online.

Access by Minors

Parents or legal guardians must assume responsibility for deciding which library resources are appropriate for their own children. Parents or legal guardians should guide their children in use of the Internet.

While the library has taken measures designed to assist in the safe and effective use of these resources by all minors, including the use of a web filter, it is not possible to fully protect children from the inappropriate and offensive content found on the Internet; nor is it possible to eliminate users' ability to abuse and/or misuse the intent of the system.

Any member of the public may use the Internet. The Internet may contain materials of a controversial nature, and it is the responsibility of parents or guardians to monitor their children's selections. If a parent or legal guardian of a South Huntington Public Library cardholder wishes to deny access to the Internet for their children under the age of 18, they must sign an Amend Privileges of Minors Form provided by the Library.

Acceptable Use

As this is a free service, and the availability of computers in the Library is limited, please be courteous to others. Library patrons are expected to abide by the following rules:

- Do not degrade or disrupt system performance
- Use of the service for unlawful purposes is prohibited
- Using this service to harass other users or to interfere with their work is prohibited

As the Internet is a global network of computers, communication over the Internet might involve data transmission that is subject to other use policies, and users should act accordingly.

Compliance

The Library reserves the right to take appropriate action to insure compliance with this policy.

Users should be aware that the Internet is not a secure medium and that third parties may be able to obtain information regarding users' activities. However, The South Huntington Public Library will not release information on the use of specific Internet resources by members of the public except as required by law or necessary for the proper operation of the Library.

The Library will not be responsible for any possible damages, resulting from but not limited to loss of data, non-deliveries, miss-deliveries, service interruptions, or the viewing of offensive and/or inappropriate material. Please be aware that with access to computers all over the world also comes the availability of material that may be considered "inappropriate" for some users. Use of any information obtained is at the user's own risk and that of the child. It is up to each user to determine what is appropriate.

Policy Subject to Revision

The Library's "Policy on Public Use of the Internet" may be revised from time to time.