

# Internet Usage Policy

rev. 10.06, chb; adopted by the Library Board 10.17.06

## Access to Internet Resources

The Decatur Public Library offers free access to the informational, educational, recreational and cultural resources available on the Internet to all its users. A variety of other computer applications are also available including word processing, spreadsheets, reference sources and a selection of children's programs. While every effort is made to keep the library's public access computers updated to meet current technology needs, no computer provides support for all possible file types, browser plug-ins or Internet technologies.

The library's system is provided on an as is, available basis. The Library does not guarantee our Internet access will be uninterrupted or error free, or that system defects will be corrected.

Content provided on the system is the responsibility of the content providers and not the Library.

## Internet Services

1. Public computer access is free and is on a first-come basis. Time may be limited to one hour per person per day.
2. Information may be printed at a cost of \$. 20 per page for black and white.
3. Decatur Public Library provides computers as a service. Please be aware that privacy and confidentiality cannot be assured in this public forum; computer users are urged to take steps to safeguard personal information.

## Internet Filtering

The Internet offers access to the informational, educational, recreational and cultural resources. However, it also enables access to material that may be offensive, disturbing, illegal, inaccurate or otherwise questionable.

## Privacy

The library computers are in a public area. Please take precautions and be aware that you are working in a public environment.

## Evaluating Internet Resources

The Internet is a powerful communication and information tool. It is extremely dynamic, changing rapidly and unpredictably. The resources of the Internet do not always provide accurate, complete or current information. Users should exercise judgment in evaluating the validity of information found.

## Internet Use Rules

Library computer users must agree to abide by the following rules. Library computer users:

1. May not use library computers to access sites appealing to or exploiting prurient interests, sites construed as harmful to minors, or sites deemed unlawful according to federal, state, or local statute. According to Texas State Penal Code Section 43.22. Obscene Display or Distribution, cited below, it is a misdemeanor offense to view obscene materials in a public setting. Viewing

of such material is strictly prohibited and will result in a loss of library privileges including the use of library's public computers.

**Texas State Penal Code Section 43.22**

**Obscene Display or Distribution**

- a. A person commits an offense if he intentionally or knowingly displays or distributes an obscene photograph, drawing, or similar visual representation or other obscene material and is reckless about whether a person is present who will be offended or alarmed by the display or distribution.
  - b. An offense under this section is a Class C misdemeanor.
2. Must sign onto a computer using their library card number or a guest pass assigned the user by Library staff.
  3. Must comply with computer use time limits.
  4. May not use library computers to disrupt or interfere with the operation of any other computer network users, services or equipment, including attempts to bypass network security or obtain passwords.
  5. May not represent themselves as another person.
  6. May not use library computers to harass others.
  7. May not use the library computers for illegal activities.
  8. May not mishandle, damage or attempt to damage library computer equipment.
  9. Must respect copyright and licensing law in correspondence with the Digital Millennium Act.

Failure to comply with Library Policy will result in denial of computer privileges.