

## LOUDONVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY OPLIN/INTERNET ACCESS POLICY GUIDELINES FOR USE AND DISCLAIMER

In response to advances in technology and the changing needs of the community, the Loudonville Public Library endeavors to develop collections, resources, and services that meet the cultural, information, recreational, and educational needs of its constituents. The Library offers access to the Internet through the services of the Ohio Public Library Information Network (OPLIN), wireless access, and Library owned PCs. Access to the Internet is compatible with the Library's endorsement of the Library Bill of Rights, the Freedom to Read, and the Freedom to View documents as well as with the Library's materials selection policy and mission statement. The Loudonville Public Library will not deny or abridge access to information available via electronic resources because of the possible controversial content, varying perceptions of the value of the material, or because of the age or background of the user. The Library has a policy of open access to all parts of its collection, including access to the Internet.

The Library seeks to protect the First Amendment rights of its patrons and their individual right to privacy. However, Internet users must be sensitive to the fact that workstations and wireless access to the Internet are in public areas and, therefore, images on the screen are subject to view by a wide audience.

It is the parent and/or legal guardian who sets family standards and values, and therefore, the Library cannot take away the right nor assume that responsibility. The Internet, since it should be no different than TV, movies, books, and magazines, is a wonderful opportunity for parents and/or legal guardians to hold discussions with their children about their family's standards. We strongly recommend that parents and/or legal guardians work with their children when they are using the Internet. We also acknowledge that it is the responsibility of the parent and/or legal guardian to monitor the information accessed by his or her child(ren) under the age of 18. Library staff cannot control the websites that minors may select. Be aware that the Internet is unregulated and materials accessible through it may be inaccurate, incomplete, outdated, biased, inappropriate or offensive. Since the Library has no control over the content, individuals use it at their own risk. **Children seeking to use the internet must have parental permission as indicated on a Juvenile Library Card or Internet Use Application.**

Through OPLIN, the Library provides access to reference databases of general and special periodical materials, readers' advisory services, homework centers to assist students with research assignments, as well as legislative, historical, and archival materials and information. It is understood by the users of OPLIN and the Internet that the information available is not generated by the Loudonville Public Library or OPLIN.

**Information available through OPLIN and the Internet is not warranted by the Loudonville Public Library to be accurate, authoritative, factual or complete. Its available resources may contain material of a controversial nature.** The availability of networked information via the Loudonville Public Library does not constitute any endorsement or ratification of that information. The Loudonville Public Library and OPLIN are not responsible for the content of networked information available. Users are responsible for determining that the information they access is acceptable, reliable, and suitable for their needs. **The use of OPLIN and the Internet to engage in any activity, which constitutes violation of local, state and/or federal laws, is strictly prohibited.**

Because the patron is the selector in using the Internet by making individual choices and decisions, patrons shall comply with all age restrictions governing the access to specific sites, as limited by the content provider, to usage by persons 18 or 21 years of age or older.

All users of this service agree to hold the Loudonville Public Library and OPLIN harmless from any and all claims, losses, damages, obligations, or liabilities directly or indirectly related to the use of OPLIN and the Internet, caused thereby or there from. In no event shall the Loudonville Public Library or OPLIN have any liability to a third party, even if the Loudonville Public Library or OPLIN is advised of the possibility of such damages.

Library staff will assist patrons with Internet use as time permits, but cannot provide in-depth training.

**ACCEPTABLE AND PROHIBITED USE** as defined by the Loudonville Public Library Board of Trustees includes, but are not limited to, the following:

- All Internet resources accessible through the Library are provided equally to all Loudonville Public Library cardholders.
- The Library's Internet computers will be used for educational, informational, and recreational purposes. Internet workstations and/or wireless access will not be used for unauthorized, illegal or unethical purposes. You are prohibited from sending, receiving or displaying text, sound or graphics that may reasonably be construed as obscene (i.e. Themes sexually explicit in text or graphics, the glorification of drugs, violence, hateful messages, and/or themes, etc.) See Section 2907 Et seq. of the *Ohio Revised Code*.
- It is not acceptable to use the Library's Internet access so as to interfere or disrupt any other services or equipment. You shall respect the privacy of others by not misrepresenting yourself as another user; by not attempting to modify or gain access to files, passwords, or data belonging to others; by not seeking unauthorized access to any computer system, or damaging or modifying any library screens or programs.
- Individuals shall not be involved in the unauthorized copying of copyright-protected material.
- Individuals shall not be involved in the disruption or unauthorized monitoring of electronic communications.
- Individuals may not use their own software programs on the Library's computers.
- Software downloaded from the Library's computer(s) and/or wireless network may contain a virus. Individuals should have a virus checking software on their home computer. The Loudonville Public Library is not responsible for damage to a patron's disk or computer, or for any loss of data, damage, or liability that may occur from use of the Library's computers and/or wireless Internet access.
- Individuals may not use the Library's computer(s) and Internet resources for profit, illegal activity, or political lobbying.

Misuse of the electronic resources of the Loudonville Public Library, or of Internet access, shall result in loss of computer privileges.

This policy is subject to change without notice.