

# **Internet and Computer Use Policy**

Adopted October 18, 2004

Reviewed and re-approved July 17, 2007

**Purpose:** The Carroll Public Library Board of Trustees establishes this policy to ensure appropriate use of Internet resources and computers within the Library.

The Library provides free public access to the Internet as an informational, educational and recreational resource.

The Library expects that all use of electronic information resources such as the Internet will be responsible consistent with the purpose for which these resources are provided. This includes:

1. Using resources for educational, informational, and recreational purposes only: not for unauthorized, illegal or unethical purposes.
2. Respecting the privacy of others by not misrepresenting oneself as another user, by not attempting to modify or gain access to any computer system, or damaging or altering software components of any network or database.
3. Further respecting the privacy of others using public access stations at Carroll Public Library by not interfering with their use.
4. Making only authorized copies of copyrighted or licensed software data.
5. Not making unauthorized changes to the setup or configuration of the software or hardware.
6. Not sending, receiving or displaying text or graphics containing child pornography.

The Carroll Public Library assumes no responsibility or liability for the use of the Internet by anyone. All responsibility for a child under the age of 18 using the Internet rests with the parent, guardian or caregiver to determine what is appropriate for their child only. The Library does not act in place or in absence of the parent and is not responsible for enforcing any restrictions which a parent or guardian may place on a minor's use of the Internet. Although filtering software has been installed on computers in the children's section, it is not possible for the library staff to control specific information children and youth may locate on the Internet. The Library makes no guarantee that inappropriate materials are totally excluded. In addition, the Library accepts no responsibility for information on screens that may be inadvertently viewed by others.

Just as the Library has no control over the uses of print material by the public and because the Library does not endorse any particular point of view with regard to print or audio/video materials, so too does the Library not endorse material found on the Internet. Selection policies, which serve to govern a library's purchased materials, do not apply to material accessed electronically.

The Library staff may impose restrictions, such as time limits, on the use of Library equipment. Staff may ask users to remove themselves from Library equipment if they observe any behavior which they judge to be in conflict with this policy. Misuse of Library computers or Internet access may result in suspension of Internet access.