
**BARRIE PUBLIC LIBRARY
PUBLIC INTERNET & COMPUTER USE POLICY**

MOTION #16-34

Reviewed June 23, 2016

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1. PHILOSOPHY

- The mission of the Barrie Public Library: “Enriching the economic, social and cultural vitality of our community by opening doors to lifelong learning”.
- The Library endorses the Canadian Library Association statement that “every person in Canada has the fundamental right ... to have access to all expressions of knowledge, creativity and intellectual activity”.
- The Internet is an information resource that allows the Library to provide information beyond the confines of its own collection, and it allows the Library, as a public access point, to provide an opportunity to any patron to access computer workstations and the Internet.
- Computer workstations offering a variety of productivity software are available to the public. Familiarity with the software is assumed.
- All patrons must agree to the terms of this Policy before being granted access to use a public workstation or the Library’s wireless Internet service.

2. DISCLAIMERS AND GUIDELINES

- 2.1 Users must not alter, damage, or destroy the library’s computers, devices, equipment, peripherals, or hardware. Users may not circumvent or alter the configuration or settings of Library software in any way. Users must not develop or use programs that infiltrate a computer or computer system and/or damage or alter the software components of a local or remote computer or computing system.
- 2.2 Users must use only their own library card for logging into workstations and may not represent themselves as other users. Use of cards belonging to other individuals in order to avoid time limits or blocks on an individual account is not permitted.
- 2.3 The library is not responsible for any damage to patron devices that may be connected to or inserted into a library workstation or connected to the Library’s power supply.
- 2.4 While the Internet offers a wealth of information, it is an unregulated medium and allows access to information which may be inaccurate, out-of-date, inappropriate for children, offensive, disturbing and/or illegal. The Library cannot control or monitor Internet resources, and individuals must accept responsibility for determining the accuracy and reliability of information found.
- 2.5 Like other resources provided by the Library, Public Services staff will assist patrons with using the Internet. Library staff will provide group orientation sessions, individual orientation sessions, and instructional materials, as resources permit.
- 2.6 The Library supports the right and responsibility of parents or legal guardians to determine and monitor their children’s use of Library materials and resources. While the Library tries to make all Internet terminals visible, staff cannot always monitor use.

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- 2.7 Library patrons are expected to respect licensing agreements and general rules of Internet conduct. The Library assumes no responsibility for infringement of copyright and other intellectual property rights.
- 2.8 Internet users are subject to all applicable federal, provincial, and municipal legislation and by-laws that regulate internet use, including provisions of the Criminal Code regarding obscenity, child pornography, sedition, and the incitement of hate. Library computers cannot be used for illegal, unethical, or criminal purposes or for access to unauthorized areas.
- 2.9 Individuals are asked to show consideration for others when accessing the internet in a public environment shared by users of all ages, backgrounds, and sensibilities. Users are prohibited from displaying content (text or images) that might reasonably offend others including overt sexual images, and to respect the privacy of others. By using the Library's services, the user agrees to abide by existing policies and guidelines. Staff will respond to complaints or observed incidents of misuse by any user. The Library will invoke consequences for failure to observe and comply with the Internet Use policy. Complaints about illegal activity may be passed on to the police.
- 2.10 Misuse or abuse of the Internet or equipment may result in suspension of Internet access or computer workstation privileges. Suspension of privileges will be in accordance with Suspension of Library Privileges in the Conduct Policy.
- 2.11 The Library will develop procedures as are necessary to ensure fair and reasonable use of Internet & equipment resources. This may involve requiring identification, imposing time limits or maximum usage, and maintaining a log of station use.
- 2.12 Users are responsible for charges levied by the Library for printing.
- 2.13 This policy applies to use of all Library computers, devices, and equipment, and the Library's wireless Internet services.

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