	Policy No: 2.2 Public Internet Use
Thunder Bay Public Library	Type: General Administration
	Originated: April 8, 2004
	Reviewed: February 18, 2015
	Amended: March 12, 2015

Related Policies:

Purpose

In order to provide public internet access, the Thunder Bay Public Library Board has adopted a Public Internet Access and Use Policy.

It is the intent of the Thunder Bay Public Library Board to provide public access to Internet and other electronic resources in fulfilment of the Library's mission statement.

The Thunder Bay Public Library will contribute to the educational, recreational and economic growth of the City of Thunder Bay and will provide its citizens with the ability to use information in current and developing formats. The library also fulfils its traditional role of providing equal access throughout the community.

Policy

a. The Thunder Bay Public Library does not monitor and has no control over the information accessed through the Internet, and cannot be held responsible for its content. Not all Internet sources provide accurate, complete, age appropriate or current information. It is the user's responsibility to question the validity of any information.

b. Parents may find some of the material on the Internet objectionable. As with other library materials, parents are expected to provide guidance in its use. Any restriction of a child's access to the Internet is the responsibility of the parent / legal guardian.

c. The Thunder Bay Public Library recognizes the concerns that parents have about potential harm to their children when they are exposed to pornographic, criminal, or hate material on the Internet.

<u>Responsible Use</u>:

All users of electronic information resources such as the Internet are expected to use these resources in a responsible manner which includes:

a. making only authorized copies of copyrighted or licensed software or data respecting and yielding to Library time limits for using the Internet and yielding to the next signed up person
b. patrons agree to take responsibility for all financial transactions they
c. perform on the Internet e.g. on-line banking, shopping, stock trading, etc.

The Library assumes no responsibility for lost data or financial transactions which may occur during system down times, scheduled or unscheduled.

<u>Violations</u>

Violation of the acceptable use policy is defined as Internet abuse, and can include the following:

a. using the Internet to access, display, download, upload, forward or e-mail material with pornographic, criminal, or hate literature content (as defined by the Criminal Code of Canada - Section 163)
b. subverting or attempting to subvert any security devices in either software or hardware format which the library has installed on its Internet workstations
c. installing or attempting to install viruses or other programs designed to damage or alter software on the workstations, the LAN (Local Area Network) or the Internet, or seeking unauthorized access to any computer system.
d. using email to send unsolicited commercial material, spam or mail bombing,
e. misrepresenting oneself as another user.
f. attempting to modify workstations in any manner or attempting to gain access to files, passwords or data belonging to others
g. attempting to modify, vandalize or steal library property

Violations including, but not limited to, the above may result in the following:

a. the library reserves the right to request that patrons discontinue use of the Internet
b. patrons in violation of the library's Internet use policies will have their Internet privileges revoked or may be banned from using the library
c. patrons using the library's Internet service *or* workstations for illegal purposes will be subject to prosecution.

<u>Children's Internet Stations</u>

The Thunder Bay Public Library recognizes that children should have equal access to all information and services of the library, including the Internet, which offers a world of informational resources. However, the Thunder Bay Public Library does not act in place of or in the absence of a parent. Parents or guardians are responsible for monitoring their children's Internet use and choice of workstation.

The Thunder Bay Public Library also recognizes that children deserve developmentally appropriate resources which can meet their recreational and educational needs and so has developed an Internet Gateway for the Children's Services Department which contains sites selected for that purpose and organized by age and subject matter. Furnishings and language-level used are also specifically designed for children's physical and developmental stages.

The Gateway may be modified and supplemented as need arises. It may contain interactive games within specific sites but not e-mail, chat rooms or other forms of on-line communication except where a specific on-line event such as a live-author relay chat may be included for a specific educational aim and as a special publicized event.