

## INTERNET ACCESS POLICY

The New Hanover County Public Library allows for public access to the Internet in order to provide its users' information beyond that contained in the Library's collection. While the Internet does contain a wealth of information resources, it also provides access to sites of marginal value and other sites which contain material or content which may be considered offensive, obscene or illegal. The library does filter access to the internet, however it cannot be held responsible for any of the information retrieved. The following rules of use are in compliance with the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) and New Hanover County Public Library's Internet Safety Policy. In order to maximize the availability of Internet resources to Library users, the following rules of use have been adopted. Failure to abide by these rules may result in a suspension of user privileges.

### Rules of Use

- By signing up or logging on, users agree to abide by the rules outlined in the Internet Access Policy.
- Misrepresenting yourself by access code, password, or signature, or using equipment for any illegal purpose is not permitted.
- *Users of the internet are restricted to one card per person.*
- Access to the internet is granted through the use of a time management system. Valid users of the system, *who are in good standing*, are restricted to a maximum of two sessions daily (sessions may not be consecutive if others are waiting). Time limits may vary by location, depending upon the availability of resources.
- Displaying, sending or receiving inappropriate materials in either text or graphics which may be reasonably construed as obscene is not permitted (pursuant to NC Statue 14-190.1).
- Email is permitted on designated equipment only. The library provides no assistance in its use and assumes no responsibility in protecting the confidentiality of the user's correspondence.
- Use of chat rooms or instant communication not related to library research is not permitted.
- Altering of hardware, software or *network* settings is not permitted and no files may be saved to the hard drive.
- Files free of viruses may be imported or exported to discs on computers designated for such use. Making unauthorized copies of copyrighted or licensed software or data is not permitted.
- Patrons over the age of 17 may request, for bona fide research purposes, access to a site that has been blocked under the provisions of CIPA. Every effort will be made to release such sites within a reasonable period of time.

- Minors under the age of 17 must have a valid library card or parental permission to use the internet. While access is filtered, it remains the responsibility of parents or guardians to determine what additional sites are appropriate for their children.
- The library (or its agent) reserves the right to monitor use of computers to prevent the intentional or unintentional disruption of the network.
- *The library assumes no responsibility for the security or confidentiality of internet traffic.*

Revised  
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