

## LYON COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM INTERNET SERVICE AND USE POLICY

### **INTERNET DEFINED**

The Internet is a connection or network of global networks. Currently the Internet is an unregulated medium and is not controlled by any single authority.

### **INTERNET SERVICE**

Internet service is provided at all branches of the Lyon County Library System in fulfillment of the Library's Mission statement that "the Lyon County Library System functions as a bridge to sources of information, entertainment and intellectual and cultural development providing free resources, staff guidance and expertise that promote lifelong learning and community enrichment." Internet workstations are set up for patrons' research, educational and informational needs. The Library subscribes to the principles of the First Amendment of the United States Constitution and, therefore, endorses the American Library Association's Bill of Rights and "Access to Information, Services and Networks: An Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights."

### **INTERNET USE**

#### Time Restrictions

All patrons are encouraged to access the Internet as well as other sources of information to meet his or her needs. Due to the limited amount of workstations, an initial thirty (30) minute session limit will be imposed on an individual's Internet access. The library staff will assist patrons in accessing the Internet but it is up to the patron to navigate the browsers. Please be aware that others may want to use the workstation. If no one else, either patron or staff, wishes to use the workstation after the initial 30 minute session limit has been reached, the user may continue his or her work. Daily time limits may be imposed to ensure equitable access for all patrons. Anyone wishing to use the Internet/Public workstation must register at the circulation desk and provide documentation, if requested, so that staff can verify identification and monitor session time.

### **FILTERING AND C.I.P.A.**

The Library receives Federal funds for Internet access. In order to receive this funding, the Library must follow the guidelines in the Children's Internet Protection Act (C.I.P.A.). Therefore, the Library has installed filtering software on all the computer workstations. The filters are intended to block images that are obscene and pornographic and other visual depictions that are "harmful to minors." Library users 16 years of age and under will be granted filtered Internet access only. However, filtering software is inherently imprecise and flawed and may not protect against all material that is obscene, pornographic or "harmful to minors." Therefore, the Library highly recommends parents and legal guardians actively monitor their children while using Internet workstations. Library users age 17 and over may request that a staff member disable the filtering software for bona fide research or other lawful purposes.

### **ACCESS BY MINORS**

A minor who wants to access the Internet should be supervised or guided by his or her parent or legal guardian. The Library Staff encourages parents/guardians to take an active role in his or her child's use of the Internet and establishing limits appropriate for their family. However, the Library staff will not be responsible for monitoring or controlling what any patron is accessing or viewing. As with other library materials, restriction of a child's access to the Internet is the responsibility of the parent or legal guardian for only his or her child. Minors 16 years of age and under will be granted filtered Internet access only. Any patron who violates federal, state or local laws or ordinances will have his or her Internet access terminated.

### **INTERNET DISCLAIMER AND USER RESPONSIBILITY**

Materials found on the Internet may be misleading, inaccurate, outdated, controversial, distasteful, offensive or inappropriate. The Library's Internet workstations are in public areas and are shared by patrons of all ages. All patrons are asked to refrain from accessing potentially offensive information or images. As with print materials, the user should critically analyze the information found on the Internet. The Library has no control over the state of the Internet and to the sites contained on it. Due to the extremely dynamic nature of the Internet, the Library cannot have complete knowledge of what is posted on the Internet. The Library does not monitor nor have any control over the information accessed through the Internet. Material and information received from the Internet should be evaluated, as would information from any other source. All users who release personal identifying information, credit card, or bank account numbers, etc. do so at their own risk. Users are encouraged to take advantage of the Internet and exercise good judgment and discretion.

### **VIRUSES**

Patrons should be aware that computer viruses and other programs, which may damage hardware or software, might be transferred from system to system throughout network connections such as the Internet or through electronic media such as disks and flash drives. The Library is not responsible for any damage caused to a patron's computer equipment (hardware or software) or property through contact with the Library's Internet stations or electronic resources. Users are strongly urged to install virus-checking software on their home computers.

### **AGREEMENT**

Patrons who register to use the computers indicate that they have read and agree to abide by the "Internet Services and Computer Use Agreement."

Adopted by the Lyon County Library System Board of Trustees April 7, 1998  
Modified August 11, 1998 pending approval by the Library Board  
Revised August 12, 2008 – Lyon County Library System Board of Trustees  
Approved November 13, 2008 – Lyon County Library System Board of Trustees

## LYON COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM COMPUTER USE POLICY

Computer users at the Lyon County Library System agree to responsible use of the programs and equipment. This includes:

- Refraining from illegal and unethical use of the Internet.
- Respecting intellectual property by only downloading or transferring information or computer files with proper permission and only to a personal disk or flash drive.
- Respecting the privacy of others; avoiding activities which maybe disruptive to others.
- Not altering, removing or damaging configurations, software or hardware on Library computers.
- Not installing any software on any Library computer.
- Not representing themselves as Library employees to others nor attempting to gain unauthorized access to the system.
- Not using Lyon County Library System computers to browse, create, transmit, print or otherwise distribute: pornographic, obscene or sexually explicit materials, as well as racist, sexist or homophobic materials.
- Paying five cents each per page for any material printed from the Internet or other electronic resources.

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