

## INF-4: Internet Access and Use Policy

Adopted: 3/20/2014; Last Revised: 5/17/2018

### Policy Statement

Internet access and the provision for public computing at the Orion Township Public Library (OTPL) are an extension of the library's commitment to meeting the community's information needs.

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### Regulations

1. Internet access, computing resources and online resources accessible through the library are provided to all library patrons regardless of age, gender, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, disability, language proficiency, or social or economic status.
2. The library neither monitors nor controls Internet information and cannot be held responsible for its content, quality, accuracy or currency. The Internet is a worldwide community with a highly diverse user population, and its use is at the patron's discretion.
3. Internet access is free to all patrons with a valid OTPL card or registered TLN library card. Patrons who are not eligible for an OTPL card and do not have a registered TLN library card may request a guest card that is valid for one day. Patrons will need to log into the computer with their library card number and PIN/password.
4. Workstations are available on a first come, first served basis. Patrons are granted a session for forty-five minutes of computer use. Additional time may be available if no other patrons are waiting.
5. The library offers the capability to print from its computers. The library charges for the use of its printers. See *Fines and Fees Policy*.
6. Staff will provide assistance to Internet patrons to the extent that time and patron demands allow. See *Information Services Policy*.
7. The workstations must be used in a responsible manner, respecting the rights of others and taking care with the use of the equipment. Changing workstation and/or Internet settings is prohibited. Unauthorized use of others' passwords or identity is prohibited.
8. The workstations cannot be used for any fraudulent or unlawful purpose, including activities prohibited under any applicable federal, Michigan or local laws.
9. Patrons should be aware that material on the Internet and the World Wide Web is copyrighted. It is the patron's responsibility to be aware of the display of any notices concerning the copyright of information on the Internet, and to respect the federal copyright laws.
10. While respecting intellectual freedom and patrons' First Amendment rights, the library is committed to providing an environment free from sexual and other forms of harassment and hate. As defined by federal and state law, users shall not access, send, receive or print materials that can be classified as child pornography<sup>i</sup>. Minors may not access, send, receive, print, or be exposed to materials than can be classified as obscene<sup>ii</sup> or harmful to minors<sup>iii</sup>. Since staff cannot consistently and effectively monitor the public's use of the Internet, patrons are asked to be sensitive of others' values and beliefs. Users have a right to privacy without the close scrutiny

of library staff or other patrons, but should use machines in less visible areas when accessing potentially controversial information and images.

11. Recognizing that graphic images on computer screens may be seen easily by passersby of all ages, the library has designated that all computers in open areas shall be minimally filtered.
12. The library has implemented public access management software to manage the daily access for Internet patrons including the provision of low filtering for minors in compliance with state law.<sup>iv</sup>
13. The Internet, even on the library's filtered workstations, may contain information that is controversial, sexually explicit or offensive to some users. Parents or guardians, not the library or its staff, are ultimately responsible for monitoring their children's access to Internet information.
14. Staff is authorized to terminate any patron's session if the patron has failed to comply with the library's *Internet Access and Use Policy*. The library director may impose longer or permanent restrictions for violations of the library's policies. Internet patrons whose session has been terminated or whose access to the library has been prohibited may request the decision be reviewed by the board of trustees. See *Patron Conduct Policy*.
15. Internet access may be unavailable at times due to technical difficulties.
16. A patron who lives in the library service area who wishes to challenge a library policy or any portion of a library policy should follow procedures as outlined in MGT-15: *Appeals Process Policy*.

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<sup>i</sup> U.S. Code, Title 18, §§ 2256 (1) and (8)

<sup>ii</sup> Michigan Obscene Material Act, P.A. 343 of 1984

<sup>iii</sup> Michigan Harmful to Minors Act, P.A. 33 of 1978

<sup>iv</sup> MCL 397.606 et seq. Library Privacy Act