

Internet Use

The Southold Free Library's mission is to provide the community with the most current information available using a wide range of formats. Access to electronic resources, including internet access for education and recreational use is a privilege, not a right, and requires responsibility on the part of the user, and adherence to this policy.

Not all Internet sources provide accurate, complete, current, or legal information. The Southold Free Library cannot be held responsible for the content accessed on the Internet. Patrons are expected to abide by the policies below which include generally accepted rules of network etiquette.

- All patrons, adults and minors, may use the Internet from the library's computers.
- Children age 8 and under must be accompanied by an adult.
- Although the library has taken steps to screen out material inconsistent with the Southold Free Library Collection Development policy, parents/legal guardians are responsible for supervising Internet access for minors and for what they might find.
- The time limit to use the Internet in the library is 1 (one) hour when others are waiting.
- No more than two persons may use a computer at the same time.
- Wireless access to the Internet is not filtered. .
- Wireless access to illegal Internet sites is prohibited.
- The use of the Internet and e-mail is not guaranteed to be private. Patrons should be careful in giving private information.
- Patrons may download and save and/or print information obtained online, abiding to copyright laws.
- The library cannot assure that data or files downloaded by users are virus free. The library is not responsible for damages to equipment or data on a user's personal computer from the use of data downloaded from the library's Internet service.

Library users are responsible for using the internet appropriately, and must not:

1. Violate applicable federal, state, or local laws including copyright, harassment and defamation laws;
2. Access, upload, download, transmit or distribute pornographic, obscene, or sexually explicit language or material. Obscene or sexually explicit material is defined as text, pictures or sound which the average adult applying contemporary community standards would find primarily appeals

- to a prurient interest in sex and lacks serious literary, artistic, political or scientific value;
3. Interfere with or disrupting other Library computer users, services, or equipment.
 4. Attempt to modify or gain access to files, passwords or data belonging to others. Seeking unauthorized access to any computer, damaging or altering software components of any network or database is prohibited.
 5. Use malicious, threatening, harassing, or obscene behavior or language.
 6. Participate in activities that could cause congestion and disruption of networks and systems.
 7. Conduct unsolicited advertising

The Library reserves the right to suspend or terminate computer access privileges to any person abusing these principles and rules.

Children's Internet Protection Act

The United States Supreme Court has upheld the guidelines set forth in the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) (Pub. L. 106-554); these guidelines must be followed by libraries that wish to receive E-rate funding.

In order to comply with CIPA, the Southold Free Library will subscribe to commercially available filtering software for its computers. The software is set to screen out sites which may reasonably be construed as obscene (Section 1460 of title 18 US code), or child pornography (Section 2256 of title 18) or harmful to minors (Section 1703, Pub. L. 106-544). Websites will be filtered if they are in conflict with CIPA guidelines. The Library Director, working with the Board of Trustees and the library staff, is free to further customize the filtering software to reflect the needs of the Southold Free Library.

Parents and guardians of minor children must assume responsibility for their children's use of the internet through library connections.

*Adopted by the Board of Trustees February 11, 1998
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