

# RITER C. HULSEY PUBLIC LIBRARY

## INTERNET USE POLICY

### Acceptable Use Policy

#### MISSION

The mission of the Riter C. Hulsey Public Library is to provide our community an open and inviting center for learning, culture, recreation, and information in all its forms. In keeping with this mission, it is important that the library offer its patrons free access to the Internet.

#### DISCLAIMERS

- A. While the majority of the information accessible on the Internet can be valuable and enlightening, users may find some sites that contain material that is personally offensive, erroneous, or illegal. Due to the basic set-up and complex global network of the Internet, there is no way to police or control what is published resulting in no guarantee of accuracy, completeness, or currency of content. The library accepts no responsibility for the content of the Internet.
- B. Parent or legal guardians have the right and the responsibility to determine and monitor their child's use of the Internet through the public access computers. The library does not have either the right or the responsibility to act *en loco parentis*.
- C. It is illegal to display obscene materials; distribute, exhibit, or display sexually explicit material, which is unsuitable for minors; or have or promote materials that show child pornography (Texas Penal Code: 43.22, 43.24, 43.26). The library will fully cooperate with local authorities in enforcing this statute.
- D. U.S. Copyright law prohibits the unauthorized reproduction or distribution of copyrighted materials, except as permitted by the principles of "fair use." Users may not copy or distribute electronic materials without the explicit permission of the copyright holder. The library expressly disclaims any liability or responsibility resulting from such use.
- E. The library supports the right of patrons to confidentiality and privacy regarding use of library materials. However, computers are located in public areas; therefore, electronic transaction of files and viewing screens become public. Also, any information regarding patron usage of the library and its resources requested by law enforcement under the provisions of the Patriot Act must be divulged regardless of probable cause. Accordingly, the library cannot guarantee privacy or confidentiality with regard to use of public Internet terminals or any other resources.
- F. **Library Assistance to Users**  
Current staffing levels do not allow us to offer one on one tutorials; however, library staff will be happy to provide guidance to patrons searching for information on specific topics.

**RITER C. HULSEY PUBLIC LIBRARY  
LIBRARY COMPUTER USE POLICY**

**PATRONS**

- A. Public access computers may not be used for any illegal or criminal purpose, including, but not limited to:
- Attempting to alter or damage computer equipment, software configurations, or files belonging to any others;
  - Attempting unauthorized entry into any computer or network;
  - Libeling, slandering, or otherwise harassing others;
  - Violation of all federal and state laws regarding the display of explicit sexual or pornographic materials'
  - Transmission of information not protected by the First Amendment of the U. S. Constitution;
  - Intentional propagation of computer viruses;
  - Violation of copyright or communication laws; violation of software licensing agreements.
- B. Patrons may access the Internet for a period of at least 1 hour. This period may be extended provided other patrons are not waiting for access to a terminal.
- C. Patrons must use their own library card to access the Internet via public access computers. Clients may not use other people's cards or let them use theirs. This includes family members.
- D. Patrons may not leave computers or related equipment unattended. Equipment abandonment can result in permanent revocation of privileges.
- E. Patrons may print for \$.10 per page. Prints may be accessed using patrons' library card or guest pass number at the print station for up to 24 hours.
- F. Patrons may not display information with the intent of being disruptive or offensive to others.
- G. Patrons may not install or download software on any library computer.
- H. Minors over the age of 12 and under 18, as well as their parent or legal guardian, must read the *Riter C. Hulsey Public Library Internet Use Policy* and sign a statement that they will comply with all aspects of that policy in its most current form.
- I. Minors 12 years of age or younger must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian when accessing the Internet.

**POLICY VIOLATIONS**

- A. Violations of this policy may result in the loss of Internet access privileges.
- B. Illegal acts involving library computing resources may additionally be subject to prosecution by local, state, or federal authorities.
- C. Users are financially liable in the event that they permanently or temporarily damage any Hulsey Public Library equipment or software.