

# Norelius Community Library

## INTERNET AND COMPUTER ACCEPTABLE USE

The Library establishes this Internet and Computer Use policy to ensure appropriate use of Internet resources.

### **1. Permitted Access:**

Computers offer information through access to the Library's online catalog, subscriptions to full-text information resources, and the Internet. Patrons accessing the Library computers must read the Library's Internet and Computer Acceptable Use Policy and, agree to abide by the policy.

The staff will manage computer resources in order to provide equitable access to all patrons. Printing availability from Library computers is provided at a cost of \$ .10 per page for black and white pages and \$1.00 for color pages. Patrons are responsible for all pages that print, and are encouraged to use the "Print Preview" option in order to determine total number of pages to be printed.

Library staff will provide reference and research assistance as needed, but cannot provide in-depth or one-on-one training in computer use.

Library computers with Internet access are located in public areas shared by patrons of varying ages, backgrounds and sensibilities. Individuals are asked to be considerate about accessing potentially controversial information and images.

### **2. Access by Minors:**

Responsibility for, and any restriction of, a child's use of the Internet rest solely with the child's parent(s) or legal guardians. Parents should inform their children of materials they do not want them to use, and may wish to supervise their children's Internet sessions. The library and/or library staff are not responsible for the content viewed by minor children.

In the American Library Association's **Statement on Library Use of Filtering Software**, the Intellectual Freedom Committee has stated that "...the use in libraries of software filters to block constitutionally protected speech is inconsistent with the United States Constitution and federal law and (...) violates the "Library Bill of Rights." Norelius Community Library will not impose blocking or filtering software to limit access to Internet sites. However, patrons may choose to use filtered search engines.

In addition, Iowa law, places no prohibition on the use of appropriate material for educational purposes in any public library. It does, however, place limitations on those who knowingly disseminate or exhibit obscene material so that it can be observed by a minor when the purpose is not for education. Accordingly, if Library staff determines that a person is viewing obscene materials observable to a minor, and the use of the obscene materials is not for educational purposes, Library staff will ask the patron to cease use of obscene materials for non-educational purposes while minors have the ability to view or observe the obscenity. The Library defines obscene materials in accordance with Iowa Code section 728.1(5).

Minors age 12 and older will use the 1<sup>st</sup> floor computer lab. Minors under age 12 will use the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor computers in the Children's Library, except with the permission from a parent or guardian, a minor under the age of 12 may be permitted to use the 1<sup>st</sup> floor computer lab.

### **3. Damage and Misuse:**

Patrons are responsible for their behavior, and that of any minor in the patron's control, care, custody, and for any damages that occur due to misuse of technology. Patrons must agree not to attempt to alter, even temporarily, the computer hardware or software. Vandalism, destructive behavior or illegal activities may result in law enforcement involvement, as well as, suspension or termination of Library privileges.

### **4. Security/Confidentiality:**

Users are cautioned that security in an electronic environment such as the Internet, cannot be guaranteed. All transactions, files, and communications are vulnerable to unauthorized access and use, and therefore should not be considered confidential. Internet users must respect the privacy of others by not attempting to modify, gain access to files, passwords, or data belonging to others. The library reserves the right to inspect any history or data on a computer at any time to determine whether any rules, policies, or laws are violated.

### **5. Wireless Use:**

The library provides wireless Internet access but does not guarantee compatibility with all wireless-equipped computers. The Library cannot accept the liability of handling patron's computers or electronic devices. Patrons must understand how to configure their own devices in order to access the Library's wireless service. Persons may use the Library's wireless service without a signed Internet user Agreement.