



Internet Access Policy

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General

The Bradford West Gwillimbury Public Library endorses the use of the internet as an essential source of information to complement the Library's material collections. The internet is also recognized as an essential communication tool, connecting individuals, all levels of government and communities of interest. The Library, as a public access point, provides an opportunity for any Library user to access the internet. This policy establishes the provision of public network services to access the internet and the acceptable use of these services.

While this policy applies to wireless internet access, such access is also governed by a separate specific wireless access policy.

Guidelines

- 1) In an effort to ensure equitable access to the internet and the efficient use of resources, the Library has developed service use guidelines. These may involve identification, time limits, booking schedules and station use logs. The Library reserves the right to modify these guidelines as needed.
- 2) While the Library tracks all sites accessed, such data will be deleted as part of the ongoing maintenance of these computers and networks, except in cases of suspected abuse and/or unauthorized access, or as part of security and intrusion detection audits. In such cases, appropriate staff or automated software may access and retain Library user information and available data.
- 3) The internet is not a secure medium and third parties may be able to obtain information about a user's activities. Users should use caution before providing any personal information over the internet. The Library assumes no responsibility for security and privacy of online transactions. In addition, workstations are in a public area shared by people of all ages and sensibilities. Users are expected to act with respect and consideration of one another.
- 4) While the internet provides a wealth of information, it is an unregulated medium that allows access to information which may be inaccurate, out-of-date, inappropriate for children, offensive, disturbing and/or illegal.





- 5) The Library does not act in place of, or in the absence of, a parent or guardian. The Library does not restrict the access of children to any information, resources and facilities in the Library, unless prohibited by legislation. As with all other resources, it is the responsibility of the parent or guardian to monitor and supervise their children's use of these resources.
- 6) Library users are not permitted to alter, tamper, or damage Library equipment or software configurations. Library users are prohibited from seeking access to unauthorized areas such as the Library's internal networks.
- 7) Library users are subject to legislation regulating internet use, including but not limited to provisions regarding obscenity, child pornography, sedition, copyright infringement and incitement of hate.
- 8) Violation of this policy and guidelines may result in suspension or loss of internet privileges and/or expulsion from the Library. Illegal activity is subject to prosecution.
- 9) Use of the Library's internet service is conditional on acceptance of this policy. An abridged version of this policy is posted on all computers.

