East Islip Public Library
Internet Policy

In accordance with its mission to provide quality services, resources and lifelong learning opportunities, the East Islip Public Library seeks to provide free and open access to electronic resources and services, including the Internet, to meet the personal, professional and educational information needs of its patrons of all ages. The Library is a forum for all points of view and adheres to and endorses the principles of intellectual freedom.

Choosing and Evaluating Sources

The Internet is a global electronic network that provides dynamic resources and facilitates communication. It is, however, an unregulated medium and continually changing with a highly diverse user population. Individual users must accept responsibility for determining the suitability of the content for themselves and their children. Library personnel cannot be responsible either for the choice of sites visited by individual patrons, or for the content of those sites. The Library staff cannot act in the place of parents in providing supervision of children as they explore the Internet. The responsibility for the suitability of the content for their children rests with parents or guardians.

The Library makes all attempts to protect customers' rights to privacy and confidentiality. However, in general, electronic communication is not absolutely secure and networks are sometimes susceptible to outside intervention. Absolute privacy in using the Internet in the library cannot be guaranteed. Internally, network administrators may monitor a person's Internet use as a part of normal system maintenance.

The East Islip Public Library assumes no liability for any loss or damage to user's hardware, devices or data, or for any damage or injury arising from invasion of privacy in user's computer accounts, programs or files, or in the case of minors, for their access to inappropriate visual or other materials.

The Library reserves the right to set rules to promote ethical, equitable and safe computer use and to regulate the manner in which its resources are utilized. Customers violating library policies and rules of conduct in this respect will be asked to discontinue such activities or to leave the library. A copy of the Library's *Public Access and Computer Use* and *Internet Policy;* adopted April 2013, is available upon request. As a condition for the use of the Internet, Library patrons and visitors agree that they shall be subject to the rules and regulations set forth in these policies. Failure to comply with the same shall result in termination of Internet access privileges and may result in disciplinary and/or legal action.

Filtering (implemented July 1, 2004)

In compliance with the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) the Library has installed filtering software on its computers that have Internet access. The filtering device is designed to protect against access to visual depictions that are obscene, harmful to minors and child pornography, as required by law.

Users should be aware of the limitations of Internet filtering software. While designed to restrict access to Internet content that could be deemed inappropriate, these systems are no substitute for individual judgment and/or parental involvement and oversight. Filters may block sites which have legitimate research value, as well as allowing some content through which parents might find objectionable.

In accordance with the law, Library staff may disable the filtering software to enable adult users, age 18 and above, access to specific sites, for bona fide research or other lawful purposes.

East Islip Public Library
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