

DANBURY PUBLIC LIBRARY INTERNET USE POLICY

In keeping with its stated mission to be "A welcoming destination; responsive to the varied needs of our city's diverse community; and a source of inspiration through words and ideas", the Danbury Public Library is committed to providing its customers with the latest advances in information technology.

Given the constantly evolving nature of the Internet and the absence of any governing body, there may be occasions when information of a controversial nature is accessed. The inclusion of Internet resources in the library falls under the Library's Materials Selection Policy, which states that *"the Library recognizes that tastes vary widely in a given community, and an item which is pleasing to one customer may be unacceptable to another; however, no one person or group has the right to impose standards on other members of the public. Decisions are not made on the basis of any anticipated approval or disapproval, but solely on the merits of the work in relation to the building of the collection and to serving the interests of the public. Responsibility for children's use of library materials rests with their parents or legal guardians. The inclusion of an item in the Library's collection in no way implies endorsement of its author, contents or views."* The Danbury Library does not monitor information accessed over the Internet and cannot guarantee the validity or accuracy of information found on the Internet. Library customers are advised, as with all library materials, to exercise judgment and discrimination when evaluating the usefulness and reliability of material found on the Internet.

DANBURY LIBRARY COMPUTER APPROPRIATE USE GUIDELINES

Violations may result in the suspension or loss of privileges to use computer resources at the Library. Any illegal activity involving the use of the Library's computers, including the Internet, will be subject to prosecution by the appropriate authorities.

PLEASE BE AWARE

The Internet is unregulated, and its contributors represent various points of view. The Library does not control or monitor the information available through the Internet and assumes no responsibility for its content, accuracy, timeliness or the method or manner in which the information, once obtained, is used. Some customers may find information and/or materials that they feel are controversial, unlawful or personally objectionable. Access to the Internet is permitted at the sole risk and discretion of the user.

The City of Danbury expressly disclaims any liability for injuries and/or damages of any kind whatsoever, including consequential damages, arising out of the use of the Internet, the obtaining of any materials from or over any Internet connection, and the fitness for use or purpose of any materials, programs or information obtained through access to the Internet.

The accessing or use of the Internet through any equipment or service offered by the Danbury Public Library shall constitute acknowledgement of this waiver and disclaimer and shall be deemed acceptance of its terms and conditions. All users shall expressly assume the risk of receiving incorrect, inaccurate, defective, fraudulent or unlawful information while accessing the Internet through any equipment or service offered by the Danbury Public Library.

Age Requirements

- Internet workstations on the main floor may be used by patrons of all ages. Children twelve years or younger must be accompanied by an adult while using these machines.
- Internet workstations in the children's area are to be used only by patrons twelfth grade and under. Children's area workstations are designed to begin Internet access at sites specifically recommended for children. However, the Library cannot guarantee that children's Internet access will be limited to only these sites and assumes no responsibility for sites that may be accessed, or for the method or manner in which any information or materials obtained is used.

Customer Conduct

- Customers must log-in using only their own valid library card number. Customers cannot use card numbers belonging to any other card holders.
- Customers must respect all Internet rules including time limits and must cooperate with others to share the workstations.
- Customers must respect the privacy of others.
- The same rules of conduct which govern use of all Danbury Library facilities and collections apply to the use of the Internet workstations.
- Abuse or misuse of Library equipment, such as modifying or tampering with computer hardware or software, is a violation of Connecticut State Statute 53a-251 (f).
- Use workstations with care. Make no attempt to fix problems. Immediately report any problems to Library staff.
- There is a limit of two people per workstation.
- Viewing of pages which display graphic pornography and/or violence is inappropriate for a public and open environment and is therefore prohibited.
- The City of Danbury does not condone, authorize, or permit any person to send or receive any materials over the Internet that may be classified as indecent, obscene, incitement to riot, or which have otherwise been declared unlawful or unconstitutional by any state, local or federal court of law.
- The Danbury Library reserves the right to revoke Library or Internet privileges for violation of these or other Library or City policies and procedures or of any local, state or federal law.

Availability & Sign-up

- Internet workstations are available during all open hours. There is no charge to view the Internet.
- The library has its own procedures for reserving use of the Internet workstations. Use is based on a first-come, first-served basis.
- Reservations are for same-day use only, and must be made in person.

Wireless Connectivity & Laptops

- The Danbury Library provides wireless connectivity to the Internet throughout the library and its grounds. Customers are welcome to use their own laptops, but must be aware that all of the rules in this policy and its guidelines apply to laptop use in the library and on its grounds. The wireless connection is not a secure connection and the library is not responsible for any virus, malware, or trojan damages to their wireless devices.

Filtering

- The Danbury Library does not filter content on any of its Internet computers.

Staff Assistance

- Limits on staff time allow the Library to offer only brief one-on-one assistance.

Copyright

- Materials obtained or copied from the Internet may be subject to copyright laws. United States Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S. Code) prohibits the unauthorized reproduction or distribution of copyrighted materials, except as permitted by the principles of "fair use."
- Responsibility for all consequences of copyright infringement lies with the user. The Danbury Library disclaims any liability or responsibility resulting from such use.

Downloading

- Downloading to flash drives, but not to CDs, is permitted at Library workstations.
- The Library assumes no responsibility for any data which may be downloaded by the user or for the reliability of such data.
- Warning: anti-virus software is installed on the Library's computers, but it may not find every virus. The Danbury Library is not responsible for damage to customers' data or computers that may occur from use of the Library's workstations.

Printing

- Printers are available at most Internet workstations for a cost per page. Customers should always PRINT PREVIEW a document before printing it. Many home pages are very long and may print multiple pages. To print a portion of the document, the approximate page number(s) should be specified in the print window.

Limits on Internet Service

- The Library cannot guarantee privacy in using the Internet.
- The Library does not provide e-mail accounts. However, customers may access their own accounts or register for free e-mail services available on the Internet.
- Installing or downloading any programs, graphics or other computer codes onto the Internet workstation hard drive is not permitted.

Approved by the Board of Directors 9/10/09, 5/16/13
Revised 6/16/11, 5/2/13