

HOPKINTON PUBLIC LIBRARY INTERNET POLICY

The Hopkinton Public Library provides its patrons with access to several electronic resources including the Internet, CD-ROMS, word processing capabilities and reference databases. The Library reserves the right to establish and revise policies in order to promote use consistent with our overall mission.

Acceptable Computer Use Policy:

- * All users must have a valid Hopkinton Public Library card.
- * Users are limited to one or one-half hour time slots per day depending on purpose of use and demand.
- * Users must sign in at the reference desk before each use.
- * Reservations may be made up to 24 hours in advance and may be made either in person or by telephone.
- * Use is limited to one person per computer unless otherwise arranged with Library staff.
- * Patrons may not use personal software or download software from the Internet onto Library computers.
- * Due to viruses, the Library at this time does not permit the use of personal discs in order to download or save files.
- * Patrons are expected to conduct themselves in a polite and ethical manner.
- * Conduct or use disturbing to other patrons will be terminated.
- * The Internet is intended to further the information and educational mission of the Library. Patrons may not use the Library's Internet terminal to access online chat groups or instant messenger services.
- * Users may not display pornographic or obscene images on the computer screen.
- * Users are not permitted to send, receive or publish any defamatory, misleading, abusive, obscene, threatening or illegal materials.

* The Hopkinton Public Library, as part of its reference service, will work to maintain a listing of useful and informative Internet resources. The Library takes responsibility only for materials provided on its web site.

CHILDREN AND THE INTERNET:

The Hopkinton Public Library recognizes the many advantages of the Internet and believes that it has significant educational value. The Library does not filter its Internet access. Parents should be aware of the ever-changing and unregulated nature of the Internet and take steps to educate themselves and their children on safe use. The Library will not be held responsible for inaccurate or offensive materials found on the Internet.

* Children 11 years old or younger are not permitted to use the Internet without the presence of a parent or legal guardian.

* Children between the ages of 12 and 17 may only use the Internet with the written permission of a parent or legal guardian. Parents and children must come to the Library to sign the form in person. The form will be kept on file at the Library and a stamp placed on the child's Library card indicating parental approval.

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**VIOLATION OF THIS ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY
MAY RESULT IN TERMINATION OF COMPUTER PRIVILEGES.**