

Policy Number	5.1
Title	Internet Access Policy
Section	5: Services
Effective Date	May 26, 2004
Review Date	January 26, 2005



The Cobourg Public Library provides its users with access to the Internet and its resources.

The Internet is an unregulated, constantly changing environment that is worldwide in scope. The Internet enables the Library to provide information that is held outside the confines of the physical collection.

1. Users are responsible for determining what material they wish to access and assessing the accuracy, reliability and legality of the information.

While the Internet offers access to a wealth of material that is personally, professional and culturally enriching to individuals of all ages, it also enables access to some material that may be offensive, disturbing and/or illegal. It may contain material of a controversial nature, as well as information that is inaccurate, out-of-date and/or inappropriate.

Users must accept responsibility for determining the accuracy and reliability of the information found. The Cobourg Public Library assumes no responsibility for the quality, accuracy, legality, appropriateness or availability of any Internet source. Library users access the Internet at their own discretion and are responsible for any access points they reach and appropriate use of the resource.

2. The Library is not responsible for the content of any sites linked to its home page or otherwise.

Cobourg Public Library staff choose web site links that provide quality information sources.

The Library is not responsible for the site content, accuracy, appropriateness or availability of any external sites linked to its home page. The Library cannot control information obtained through links which often change rapidly. Links to information resources do not imply endorsement.

3. Users are responsible for any infringement of legislation governing access to information including copyright and other intellectual property rights.

The Cobourg Public Library endorses as policy the *Statement on Intellectual Freedom* of the Canadian Library Association. The Library is governed by the *Canadian Copyright Act*, the *Criminal Code of Canada* and other legislation governing access to expressions of knowledge and intellectual activity.

Users are responsible for the legality of any sites they access.

4. Use of workstations for illegal, actionable or criminal purposes or to access unauthorized areas is prohibited.

Use of workstations for illegal, actionable or criminal purposes or to access unauthorized areas is prohibited. Infringement of copyright or other intellectual property rights is prohibited.

The Library is not responsible for such infringements.

5. Parents/guardians are responsible for their child's use of the Internet.

The Library supports the right and responsibility of parents or legal guardians to determine and monitor their children's use of Library materials and resources.

The Library does not act in place of or in the absence of a parent. The Library is not responsible for enforcing any restrictions which a parent or guardian may place on a minor's use of the Internet. Parents are encouraged to supervise their child's Internet sessions and to inform the child if there are resources they do not want the child to access.

The Library does not restrict the access of children to any information, resources and facilities in the Library, unless proscribed by legislation. As with other library materials, children's access to the Internet and other electronic networks is the responsibility of the parents or guardians.

Parental signature on Internet form waives responsibility for the Cobourg Public Library.

6. Users are responsible for any damages, direct or indirect, arising from the Library's provision of Internet access.

Users should be aware that the Internet is not a secure medium and that third parties may be able to obtain information about their activities. The Library is not responsible for any third parties obtaining information in this way.

The Cobourg Public Library assumes no responsibility for any damages, direct or indirect, arising from the Library's provision of Internet access. The library disclaims any liability of responsibility arising from access to or use of information obtained through the Internet. Users are responsible for any commercial transactions made while using the Library's Internet connection.

7. Users are not permitted to alter, tamper with or damage the Library's computer equipment or software configuration.

8. Users must respect the privacy of others using the Internet.

Users are guests of the system and should act with respect and consideration for one another.

In order to protect the sensitivities of other computer users, patrons are required to use a privacy filter on their monitors when using the open access public computers. Only computer users working in groups, or those with visual impairments, may be given permission to remove the privacy filter from their monitors. Permission will be granted at the discretion of on-duty staff.

All users are expected to respect the privacy of others using the Internet and not interfere with their use.

9. The Library reserves the right to develop service use guidelines that will be revised as necessary.

10. Failure to comply with policy and guidelines may result in loss of Internet privileges and/or expulsion from the Library.

Misuse of computer equipment, illegal use of Internet access or failure to comply with the posted policy and guidelines for use may result in loss of Internet access privileges and/or expulsion from the Library.

11. Use of Library workstations is conditional upon the user's agreement to observe this policy.

By continuing to use the workstation, the user indicates agreement to all requirements of the policy.

Approved: January 26, 2005

CEO: _____