

# **Internet Service Policy for the Hicksville Public Library**

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The Hicksville Public Library endeavors to develop collections, resources, and services that meet the cultural, informational, recreational, and educational needs of the Hicksville community. In response to advances in technology, we are pleased to offer Internet access subject to the following guidelines:

## **Requirements for Internet Access**

- Users must have a Hicksville library card or a library card from one of the surrounding Nassau County libraries. Users without a library card must present a valid ID to a Reference Librarian to obtain a visitors pass. The pass is good for one day.

## **Internet Sign-Up Procedures**

- Patrons may sit down at a properly designated computer and log on using their 14 digit library card number and 4 digit pin number. If a pin number is forgotten or unknown, a patron can get a pin number from a Circulation Desk employee by showing a valid ID.
- If no computers are available, a user can use a sign-up station to sign up for the appropriate next available computer. Users will be given an

approximate time, and can watch a queue to see which computer is assigned. There will be no reservations for any computer.

- A patron may not sign-up for the Internet computer when there is less than 30 minutes left before the library closes. With sufficient warning, patrons will automatically be logged off the Internet 15 minutes before the library closes.

### **Internet Computer Print Procedure**

- Printing will cost \$.10 for black and white copy. If available, color printing will be \$.25 a copy.
- In order to print, users must add funds to their library print account at the circulation desk.

### **Responsibility of Internet User**

- Users are subject to all State and Federal laws.
- Monitoring controversial material by parent or guardian of child under 18.
- Respecting the privilege of using our system by limiting your session to one hour. However, if no other patrons are waiting to access the Internet, an additional one hour session will be allowed. A session may also be extended for short periods of time until the system detects additional user requests for Internet access.
- The maximum number of logons per day is three. The maximum time allowed per day is three hours.
- **Installing, tampering, or copying any files to our computers will result in the suspension of all Internet access privileges for one month.**

- Being a good information consumer by questioning the validity of the information found on the Internet keeping in mind that not all sources on the Internet are accurate, complete, or current.
- Remembering that the Internet is only one of the many research tools available at the Hicksville Public Library and availing oneself, with the help of a Reference librarian if necessary, of the books, periodicals, CD-ROM databases, and other information sources.
- Privacy screen cannot be removed from the public access internet work station in the Library.

### **Unacceptable use of the Internet**

- Transmission of any material in violation of any U.S. or State law is prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to, copyrighted material; obscene materials, threatening, profane or abusive language; expressions of bigotry, racism, sexism, or hate; transmission of material protected by trade secret, or in violation of child pornography laws. Users should not display text or graphics that may be reasonably construed as obscene and/or offensive by other people.
- It is **NOT ACCEPTABLE** to use this service to interfere with, or disrupt other users, services, data, or equipment. This includes, but is not limited to, distribution of unsolicited advertising, propagation of computers, worms, viruses, or any attempt to disrupt or improperly access this or any other computer network. Use of Internet Relay Chat is not supported for security reasons.

### **Children and Young Adult Users**

- Please be aware that some information on the Internet is of a mature nature, and may not be suitable for children. **Parents or guardians, not**

**the library or its staff, are responsible for the information selected and/or accessed by children.**

- Children's department computers are only for children's usage (by those patrons who have not yet completed grade 6) these computers are heavily filtered for obscene language and content.

### **Staff Assistance**

- Library staff cannot provide in-depth training on the Internet or computer use. Those who use the Internet are expected to have basic knowledge of how to access the software and the Web. However, librarians may, subject to their availability, offer searching suggestions and help answer questions. Computer technicians may be able to offer some basic assistance with computer related problems.
- The Library Director may in certain circumstances, permit staff to provide remote computer assistance of our patrons using remote access software. The patron must request and accept the incoming connection in order to receive help.

### **Internet Filtering**

- As required by the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA), in order to remain eligible for certain federal funding, the Library has implemented hardware filtering on all of its internet-accessible computer terminals. The hardware installed on the Libraries network protects against access to visual depictions of obscenity, child pornography, and, in the case of persons under the age of 17 years, materials that are "harmful to minors." It also includes but not limited to the filtering of Peer to Peer sites, Torrent sites, malicious websites, known phishing websites, and proxy avoidance.

- Users should be aware, however, that all currently available filtering hardware results in a degree of both “underblocking” (i.e., permitting access to certain material that falls within the foregoing categories) and “overblocking” (i.e., denying access to certain constitutionally protected material that does not fall within the foregoing categories). The Library has attempted to select filtering hardware that best complies with CIPA while Library users with the broadest possible access to constitutionally protected speech and information.
- The Library cannot and does not guarantee that the filtering hardware will block all obscenity, child pornography, or materials that are harmful to minors. Nor can the Library guarantee that the filtering hardware will not restrict access to sites that may have legitimate research or other value.
- In order to help address the overblocking problem and to enhance users’ access to constitutionally protected speech and information, the Library requests that all users, both adults and minors, contact the Library at [filtering@hicksvillelibrary.org](mailto:filtering@hicksvillelibrary.org) (or at such other contact point as the Library shall designate from time to time) to request unblocking of an incorrectly blocked site.

### **Disclaimer Statement**

- The Library makes no warranties of any kind, whether expressed or implied, and assumes no responsibility as to the quality, availability, or reliability of the services it is providing. Users navigate the Internet and use information at their own risk. The Library will not be responsible to users for any damage which may occur as a result of the use of this system. This may include, but is not limited to, loss of data resulting from delays, misdeliveries, non-deliveries, or service interruptions, as well as damage resulting from unintended transfers or disclosures or user file information. Be aware that access to computers worldwide brings with it access to material which may be considered inappropriate for some users, or in violation of state and federal laws. It is up to the user to determine what is appropriate pursuant to the

parameters established by the Library's rules and regulations regarding unacceptable use of the Internet as set out by the Library.

- Failure to observe the above guidelines will result in termination of Internet access privileges.