Provision of New Technology for Public Use

Public Access Computers

Access to Internet Resources

Generally

The West Tisbury Public Library provides its users with access to the Internet as part of its ongoing commitment to make information available through a variety of formats and from a variety of sources. The Internet, as an information resource, enables the Library to provide information beyond the confines of its own collection.

The Internet is a global and unregulated information network. It is filled with resources that can educate, inform, and entertain. However, access to material of a controversial or mature nature, as well as to material that is not accurate, complete, or current, is unavoidable. The Library cannot control the information available through the Internet and does not accept responsibility for its quality, accuracy, or currency. The Library advises users to exercise judgment when evaluating the usefulness and reliability of material found on the Internet.

Children's Access

The West Tisbury Public Library provides unfiltered access to the Internet. As with the use of all Library materials, it is the responsibility of each child's parent, caregiver or legal guardian to determine what is appropriate and to monitor and supervise the child's use of the Internet. The Library staff cannot and does not act *in loco parentis*. Library staff is available to provide assistance and help to identify appropriate sites. Parents or guardians are encouraged to read the literature available at the Library on Child Safety on the Information Highway.

Confidentiality

The West Tisbury Public Library strives to preserve confidentiality and privacy for all Library users. However, absolute privacy for patrons using electronic resources in the Library cannot be guaranteed. Internet users who release personal information do so at their own risk. Anything accessed or entered on the Library's computers is not secure and may be accessible to others.

Responsibilities of Users

All users of the Library's computers are expected to do so in a responsible and ethical manner consistent with the informational and educational purposes for which the Library provides them. The Library's computers may be used only for lawful purposes. Unacceptable uses include, but are not limited to: sending, receiving or displaying material that is obscene, pornographic, or "harmful to minors" (consistent with state laws and/or local standards); harassing, libeling or slandering others; destruction of or damage to equipment, software or hardware; disruption or unauthorized monitoring of electronic communications; or unauthorized copying of copyright-

protected materials. Rules governing acceptable use of the Library's Internet equipment are posted for patron inspection.

The Library's Internet workstations are located in public areas that are shared by patrons of all ages. Internet users are asked to refrain from accessing potentially offensive information or images. It is the user's responsibility to exercise good judgment when accessing the Internet, and to be alert to any information or images that could be considered offensive to other patrons in a Library environment.

User sessions and/or Internet usage privileges will be suspended or revoked if, in the opinion of the Library administration, use and/or behavior at the Internet workstations is not in accordance with this policy, or with in-Library computer workstation usage rules. In addition, any illegal activity involving the use of the Library's computers, including the Internet, will be subject to prosecution by the appropriate authorities.

Adopted by vote of the Library Board of Trustees, _8/14/2008_____

WIRELESS ACCESS

The Library will provide Internet access points or "hot spots" for users with portable computers or devices capable of receiving wireless signals. These access points will allow users to access the Internet from their laptop computers when sitting within range of the access points.

 All wireless access users should have up-to-date virus protection on their laptop computers or wireless devices.

Library staff will provide general information on the settings necessary to access the Internet via these connections, but are not responsible for any changes you make to your computer's settings and cannot guarantee your hardware will work with our wireless connection.

 If a user has problems accessing the Internet over these connections, staff will verify the Library's connections are up and running, but they cannot assist in making changes to the user's network settings or perform any troubleshooting on the user's own computer. Please refer to your owner's manual or other support services offered by your device manufacturer.

The Internet is a public communications network, which means that there can be untrusted parties between you and anybody you communicate with. Wireless poses the same risks to your personal information that a wired network poses, as well as some new risks. Cautious and informed wireless users should choose not to transmit their credit card information and passwords while using any wireless "hot spot." As with most public wireless "hot spots," this connection is not secure. Potentially any information being sent or received could be intercepted by another wireless user. Please take appropriate precautions when using this service.

The Library will not be responsible for any information (i.e. credit card) that is compromised, or for any damage caused to your hardware or software due to security issues or consequences caused by viruses, hacking, or Library systems.

Use of these access points is governed by our Policy on Public Access of the Internet. Should you need electricity, please use a designated electrical outlet.

Adopted by the Library Board of Directors, _____