

Electronic Resources Access Policy

I. Mission

The mission of the New Orleans Public Library is to offer opportunities for the development of an informed and literate citizenry, essential to the future of New Orleans.

The purpose of the New Orleans Public Library System is to provide information resources and services for the intellectual and educational enrichment of the citizens of New Orleans. This includes online electronic information resources. Online electronic resources currently accessible through the Library include:

- * INTERNET: an **unregulated** worldwide information and communication network connecting thousands of other computer networks
- * GATEWAYS: a link to selected computer sites worldwide
- * GNO FREE-NET: a non-profit community computing system, available free of charge to citizens of the nine parish metro region, containing information on health, education, government, the arts, law, tourism, and community activities

II. Electronic Resources and Users Responsibility

These resources contain a wealth of valuable information. However, users should be aware that some information may be inaccurate, outdated, or offensive. Use of these resources carries with it a responsibility to evaluate the quality of the information accessed. **Parents, not the library, are responsible for the use of these resources by their children.**

Library staff cannot guard the use of the Internet by children and young adults. It is understood that there are sites on the World Wide Web that may be considered unsuitable for children. However, current filter technology is unreliable in discerning acceptable sites from unacceptable sites, and cannot substitute for parental guidance.

III. Acceptable Uses (Examples)

Patrons are encouraged to use the workstations for the following purposes:

- * Research and educational information
- * Navigation (Asurfing@) of the Internet to locate sites of interest and to hone usage skills
- * Printing, for a fee, from full-text databases at selected workstations

IV. Prohibited Uses

Patrons and staff may not use the workstations in the following situations:

- * Illegal, unauthorized, unethical, or commercial purposes
- * Manipulation of internal hardware and/or software including uploading or downloading of any software
- * Transmission of any material in violation of state or federal laws including

sending, receiving, or displaying text or graphics which may reasonably be construed as obscene

* Transmission of, including sending, receiving, or displaying text or graphics which are deliberately and maliciously offensive, libelous or slanderous or which may be deemed pornographic

Workstation use is a privilege and should be treated as such by all users of the Library system. Library staff has the right to determine the appropriateness of workstation use and can require a patron to leave the workstation. Prohibited uses may result in loss of workstation privileges. In accordance with the Library's general policy, appeals of such loss should be addressed in writing to the Library Director. Illegal activities will be dealt with in a serious and appropriate manner. Perpetrators of malicious damage to the system may be prosecuted to the full extent of the law.

V. Limitations

TIME: Because of the limited number of workstations, time limits may be imposed when demand is high. The limit during peak periods will be 1 hour.

VI. Costs

There is no charge for use of the workstations and to access the information therein for library card holders. However, out-of-parish visitors will be charged \$3.00 to use the internet workstations for one hour per day. Patrons shall assume printing costs at the rate of 15 cents per page for black and white and 75 cents per page for color where available; **there is no charge for downloading.** Patrons shall provide their own disk.

VII. Patron Requests

Electronic information technology is emerging, expanding, and changing constantly. The New Orleans Public Library Board of Directors encourages patrons to make use of the new technology and welcomes comments and suggestions regarding policies governing use.

Attachments:

Internet Access Statement for Library Card Applications

NOPL Online Access Disclaimer

Greater New Orleans Free-Net Disclaimer and Regulations

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