# Greeneville/Greene County Public Library

## INTERNET ACCESS POLICY

**Internet Access**

The library provides access to the internet through networked public computers and a wireless connection for use with personal digital devices.

Users of the public computers access library services by registering with a current Greeneville-Greene County Public Library card or an appropriate identification, such as a driver's license or state ID card, that provides a photograph. Users of the library's public computers must have accounts in good standing (that is, must not owe money to the library), or computer access will be denied. Users may not use the identification of family members or anyone else to access public computers. Two or more users may share a single access session provided all have accounts in good standing and provided their behavior and conversation do not disturb other library patrons.

Due to high demand, users must comply with time constraints set by the library in order to ensure fair access to all users. Computer sessions are pre-set for one hour, and patrons may request additional time.   Generally, such requests will be granted, provided no more than one additional hour is requested and provided granting the requests does not prevent other users from having access.   In rare instances--for example, involving instructional or testing materials--requests for more than two hours may be honored.

The internet offers access to a wealth of information that can be personally, professionally, and culturally enriching. However, the U. S. Congress and the courts have recognized that there is no single organization to govern, control, or select information for the internet. Along with much valuable information, the internet also contains information which may be inaccurate, outdated, controversial, or offensive. Information access points may change rapidly and unpredictably. Due to the constantly changing and expanding nature of technology, library staff may not be familiar with every aspect of the internet, electronic devices, and software programs.

The Greeneville/Greene County Public Library cannot be held responsible for the content of the internet, as the library has no control over this vast array of informational resources. The library specifically disclaims any warrant as to the information's accuracy, timeliness, authoritativeness, usefulness, or fitness for a particular purpose. The library will have no liability for direct, indirect, or consequential damages related to the use of information accessed through the library's internet service.

The library does not monitor a users' internet sessions, except for length of time in order to ensure equal opportunity of access for everyone. The library does not maintain records of patron internet use. The library will make a good faith effort to purge all patron originated information left on library computers. However, information transmitted and received on the library's public computers is by no means guaranteed to be protected from interception by other parties inside or outside the library. Users are cautioned that library computers are located in public areas where computer screens are visible to others, so they cannot be considered private. The user, or the parent/guardian of a minor user, is responsible for his or her internet session at all times. Library staff reserve the right to ensure compliance with this internet policy.

**Technology Protection Measures**

In compliance with the Children's Internet Protection Act of 2000 (updated in 2011) the library uses filtering software or other technology protection measures on library computers and all other personal devices connected to the library's network. Filters are required to prevent minors from accessing visual depictions that are obscene, that constitute child pornography, or that are in other ways harmful to minors.

The library makes no claim that its filtering software or any filtering software is foolproof.

Filtering software diminishes the likelihood that users will inadvertently retrieve text or images that they may find offensive, but it does not eliminate that possibility. In addition, filters may block sites that users consider both inoffensive and useful. Users aged 18 and older may ask a library staff member to disable filters for *bona fide* research or other lawful purpose.

The library will have no liability for damages related to the operation of, or failure of, its filtering software, or for its circumvention by users.

**Internet Safety/Child Safety on the Internet**

Parents or guardians, not the library or its staff, are responsible for internet information accessed by children under the age of 18.   Parents and guardians should be aware that the only way to monitor their children's internet use is for the adult to be present at the computer. Parents and guardians are reminded that filtering software is not foolproof. At all times, while using the library or its internet access, children 10 and under must be accompanied by a parent or guardian or other adult caregiver.

**User Responsibilities**

All users of the internet at the library are expected to use this resource in a responsible and ethical manner, consistent with the library's educational and informational purposes, and to follow all internet related rules, regulations, and procedures established for its use including, but not limited to, those of the library.

Responsible use of the internet at the library includes:

- Complying with the library's posted Code of Conduct
- Using the library's computers for library designated purposes only
- Not abusing or misusing library computers or any other equipment; changes are not allowed to the setup or configuration of the software or hardware
- Not using someone else's library account to access the internet
- Not altering or damaging software or data residing on the internet
- Respecting the sensibilities of others when accessing potentially offensive information and images
- Refraining from illegal or unethical use of the internet, including the viewing of any material which depicts nudity, sexual contact, or excess violence, or which is harmful to minors per the Tennessee Code Annotated 39-17-911.

The library is not responsible for damage to users' storage medium or electronic devices or for any loss of data, damage, or liability that may occur from use of the library's computers.

The library provides free, unsecured wireless internet access for public use. The library does not provide technical support for privately owned personal electronic devices. Security for personal wireless devices rests solely with the owner of the wireless device. Personal use of the library's public wireless access will conform to policies regulating other types of public internet access provided by the library.

**Response to Violations**

The library reserves the right to terminate an internet session that disrupts library services or that involves user behavior that violates this or any other library policy. Failure to comply with library policies may result in the temporary or permanent forfeiture of the user's privilege to access these computers or to use the library.

**Review and Revision of this Internet Access Policy**

This Internet Access Policy, including any attachments, will be reviewed annually by the library staff and the library board. It may be revised only with the formal approval of the board.