Policy 207 **Internet**

Purpose: To state the Highland Park Public Library's ("the Library") policy regarding the use of the internet.

General Policy

The Library offers access to the internet, a worldwide electronic information network, in support of the Library's mission to provide materials, resources, and services to help Patrons obtain information to meet their educational, professional, cultural, and social needs. The internet presents the Library with an opportunity to expand the scope of information available to Patrons.

The Internet and Emerging Technologies

The Library does not, and cannot, control the information available on the internet. While many sources are dependable and useful, others may be unreliable, inaccurate, out-of-date, offensive, or controversial. The Library does not endorse the content of internet sites. The Library does not use filtering software for internet content and does not deny access to internet sites based solely on age. Internet content is protected by the First Amendment, which guarantees freedom of speech.

An increasing part of internet content involves Artificial Intelligence ("AI"), including Machine Learning and Generative AI. While AI can provide valuable information, it may also produce incomplete or inaccurate results. Patrons are encouraged to evaluate information obtained through AI with the same care as with any other source.

Patron Responsibilities

1) The Library encourages Patrons to evaluate carefully the information obtained on the internet. Patrons are responsible for selecting the sites that they deem appropriate to their needs.
2) Individual users are responsible for defining what material or information is consistent with their personal beliefs.
3) Parents and guardians are responsible for monitoring and supervising their children's use of the internet and to discuss with their children issues of appropriate use and network safety. The Library does not deny access to electronic information networks based solely on age.
4) Patrons are solely responsible for any liability, injury, or damage arising out of or related to their use of the internet.

Patron Prohibitions

Patrons may not:

1) Damage, alter, or tamper with Library computer equipment or software.
2) Connect their own devices to the Library's private data network.
3) Violate system security.
4) Violate licensing agreements.
5) Use the network to harass others.
6) Violate a Federal or State law including, but not limited to, accessing material that is obscene or child pornography as defined by the Illinois Criminal Code, 720 ILCS 5/11-20 & 720 ILCS 5/11-20.1, infringing copyright(s) of intellectual property laws, and/or cyberstalking.
7) Engage in any activity that violates the Patron Conduct Policy.
8) Use Library devices designated for youth (up to age 12) if Patron is over the age of 12.

Library Assistance

1) Library staff is available to assist users in making judgments about the reliability or currency of certain types of information and sources but cannot and will not provide definitive analyses of particular sources. Patrons are ultimately responsible for making judgments and selecting the sites, sources, and information that they deem appropriate to their needs.
2) As with all materials, Library staff are also available to help Patrons locate sources of useful information, as well as to recommend age-appropriate materials for children.
3) In using the internet, Patrons agree that the Library is not responsible for any liability, injury, or damages which they may incur with or without the assistance of Library staff.

Library Procedures

The Library may set procedures to assist staff and Patrons in the use of electronic resources, including, but not limited to:

1) Time limits for access to Library computer equipment,
2) Cost recovery for copies and printouts,
3) Specific instructions for using electronic resources,
4) Restrictions on the use of personal software on Library computer equipment, and
5) Restrictions on the use of the workstations for other purposes.

Breach of Policy

Violation of any aspect of this policy or established Library procedures may result in suspension or loss of Library privileges.

Reviewed and revised July 15, 2025
Reviewed and revised September 15, 2026