

HIGHLAND PARK PUBLIC LIBRARY

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 world-wide electronic information network. It is offered 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 unprecedented opportunity to fulfill its mission by expanding the scope of information available to patrons.

The Internet and Artificial Intelligence

As the internet connects computers and devices across the globe, the Library does not, and cannot, control the information available. Internet content is protected by the First Amendment, which guarantees freedom of speech. The Library does not deny access to internet sites based solely on age. The Library does not use filtering software for information content. An increasing part of the internet is the rapidly evolving use of Artificial Intelligence ("AI") including Machine Learning and Generative AI. While there are many highly dependable and useful sources available on the internet, other sources may be unreliable, inaccurate, out-of-date, offensive, or controversial. AI can pose a particular risk of generating potentially unreliable or inaccurate information.

Patron Responsibilities

- 1) The Library encourages patrons to evaluate carefully the information obtained on the internet. Patrons are responsible for selecting the sites which they deem appropriate to their needs.
- 2) Individual users are responsible for defining what material or information is consistent with their personal beliefs. Internet content is protected by the First Amendment, which guarantees freedom of speech. The Library does not use filtering software for information content.
- 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.

HIGHLAND PARK PUBLIC LIBRARY

Patron Prohibitions

Patrons are prohibited from:

- 1) Damaging or altering computer equipment or software.
- 2) Connecting their own devices to the Library's data network.
- 3) Violating system security.
- 4) Violating licensing agreements.
- 5) Using the network to harass other users.
- 6) Violating 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, copyright, and cyberstalking.
- 7) Engaging in any activity that violates the Patron Conduct Policy.
- 8) Using the internet in the Youth Services Department if over the age of 14.

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.
- 2) As with all materials, Library staff is 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: Time limits for access.

- 1) Cost recovery for printouts.
- 2) Specific instructions for downloading files.
- 3) Restrictions on the use of personal software on Library computer equipment.
- 4) Restrictions on the use of the workstations for other purposes.

Breach of Policy

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

Reviewed and revised December 18, 2024

Reviewed and revised July 15, 2025