

## 1. INTERNET AND ONLINE ACCESS POLICY

### 1.1 Purpose

The Internet is a network of computer networks which permits the exchange of information worldwide. It provides to Wasatch County Library patrons access to a vast amount of information. By providing access to this research tool, the Wasatch County Library has far expanded its traditional collection. However, at the present time, the Internet is not regulated. Therefore, some information obtained through it may be erroneous, unreliable, out of date, or offensive. Patrons are advised to evaluate all such information carefully.

Because the Internet is an unregulated technology ~~requiring a limited number of computer work stations~~, the Library Board has adopted the following policy for its use. This Policy does not replace or supersede existing library policies, procedures, and practices. However, in the event this Policy conflicts with other policies, procedures, or practices, this Policy controls.

In adopting the following Policy, the Wasatch County Library recognizes that access to electronic information is a field that evolves on an almost daily basis. Therefore, the issues addressed in this Policy may be revisited as changes in technology, patron needs, software, and relevant laws so dictate.

### 1.2 Definitions

The following definitions shall apply to this Policy:

- a. "Adult Patron" means a user of the Wasatch County Library who is 18 years of age or older.
- b. "Computer Work-Station" means a computer at the Wasatch County Library devoted primarily to the access of information through the Internet or other electronic databases by ~~Adult Patrons and Minor Patrons~~ users of any age.
- c. "Graphically Violent Material" means material which (1) taken as a whole appeals to an interest in violent physical harm to humans or animals, (2) is patently offensive in its depiction of such violent physical harm; and (3) taken as a whole does not have serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value and is considered obscene material.
- d. "Library Board" means the duly appointed Wasatch County Library Board.
- e. "Material Harmful to Minors" means that quality of any description or representation, in whatever form, of nudity, sexual conduct, sexual excitement, sadomasochistic abuse, when it: (1) taken as a whole, appeals to the prurient interest in sex of minors; (2) is patently offensive to prevailing standards in the adult community as a whole with respect to what is suitable material for minors; and (3) taken as a whole, does not have serious value for minors. UCA 76-10-1201
- f. "Minor Patron" means a user of the Wasatch County Library who is younger than 18 years of age.
- g. "Patron" and "user" means a user of the Wasatch County Library.
- h. "Policy" means the Wasatch County Library Internet and Online Access Policy, as amended by the Library Board.
- i. "Pornography" or "Pornographic" means material which (1) the average person, applying contemporary community standards, finds that, taken as a whole, it appeals to prurient interest in sex; (2) it is patently offensive in the description or depiction of nudity, sexual conduct, sexual excitement, sadomasochistic abuse, or excretion; and (3) taken as a whole it does not have serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value. UCA 76-10-1203

### 1.3 Posting Internet Policy

A legible copy of this policy shall be available at the circulation desk. A notice shall also be posted at each computer work-station stating that patrons who proceed to access the Internet and other electronic information agree to be bound by this policy.

#### 1.4 Computer Access and Time Limits

Patrons must have a valid library card or guest pass to use computer work stations. Patrons or guests may access the Internet for up to 2 hours a day. Internet users are expected to abide by these time limits and to end their use of such sources ~~as required by library staff~~ once the allotted time has expired.

~~No Minor Patron shall have access to the Internet without submitting a valid Library Card to the Circulation Desk and unless his or her parent or guardian has signed a permission slip authorizing the Minor Patron to have Internet access.~~

#### 1.5 Permitted Internet Use

Electronic information sources, such as the Internet, complement other library sources, reference, and research materials. Patrons may use these electronic information sources to locate, retrieve and print information. The following uses ~~inconsistent with the acquiring of information~~ are not permitted:

- a. Accessing obscene material,
- b. Creating personal folders, bookmarks, system passwords, or other individualized files,
- c. Using equipment owned by the Library or Wasatch County for purposes which are illegal.

Each ~~Adult Patron and Minor Patron~~ user is individually responsible for the content of Internet searches ~~he or she~~ they initiates.

Patrons may print from electronic information sources at a price-per-sheet equal to the amount charged for photocopies.

#### 1.6 Internet Safety and Protection for Minors

Library policy restricts access to Internet sites that contain visual depictions that are child pornography, harmful to minors or obscene. All patron computer work-stations and the library's wireless network shall be restricted by filtering software approved at the discretion of the Library Board and Wasatch County Information Systems. Because filtering software technology is limited, patrons may be denied access to information which is not considered obscene material. In the event this occurs, the Librarian or appropriate staff, upon request, shall provide the patron with Internet access to the information desired.

#### 1.7 Internet Use Policy Violations

The Library Board intends to meet and enforce the requirements of Sections 9-7-215 and 9-7-216 UCA and use of the computer work-stations and the library's wireless network by patrons that access obscene material. ~~These~~ patron privileges may be suspended for violating this policy in accordance to the library's Patron Behavior Policy. ~~Patrons who violate this policy on three or more occasions may have their access to the Internet or other electronic information at the Library permanently terminated. The Library Board has adopted written administrative procedures and guidelines for the staff to follow in enforcing this policy. These written procedures are available for public review at the circulation desk.~~

#### 1.8 Observed Patron Behavior Procedures and Guidelines

The Library Board has adopted ~~written administrative procedures and guidelines for the staff to follow in enforcing this policy. Inappropriate observed patron behavior can also be reported by patrons to the staff~~ Patron Behavior

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~~Policy that addresses inappropriate behavior.- These written procedures are posted and available for~~ All policies are available for public review online and at the circulation desk.

### 1.9 Appeal to Library Board

Any patron whose access to the Internet or other electronic information has been suspended or ~~permanently terminated~~ may appeal the decision to the Library Board in accordance to the library's Patron Behavior Policy. ~~Procedures to handle complaints about the policy and its enforcement have been established and are available at the circulation desk. The Board shall review the facts and circumstances giving rise to the suspension or termination and either (1) reinstate the appealing patron's access to the Internet; (2) determine an appropriate suspension period; or (3) affirm the permanent termination.~~

### 1.10 Severability

If any term, condition or provision of this policy or the application to any circumstance is determined to be invalid or unenforceable to any extent by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remaining provisions of this policy shall not be affected, but shall instead remain valid and enforceable.

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*APPROVED and PASSED the 26th day of August 1999*

*REVIEWED by WASATCH COUNTY LIBRARY BOARD the 17th day of May 2001*

*REVIEWED by WASATCH COUNTY LIBRARY BOARD the 30th day of June 2004*

*REVIEWED by WASATCH COUNTY LIBRARY BOARD the 29th day of March 2006*

*REVIEWED and REVISED by WASATCH COUNTY LIBRARY BOARD the 25th day of April 2007*

*REVIEWED and REVISED by WASATCH COUNTY LIBRARY BOARD the 28th day of April 2010*

*REVIEWED and REVISED by WASATCH COUNTY LIBRARY BOARD the 26th day of June 2013*

*REVIEWED and REVISED by WASATCH COUNTY LIBRARY BOARD the 29th day of April 2016*

*REVIEWED and REVISED by WASATCH COUNTY LIBRARY BOARD the 24th day of May 2019*

*REVIEWED and REVISED by WASATCH COUNTY LIBRARY BOARD on ????????*

