

## **WEST HARTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY POLICY ON PUBLIC ACCESS OF THE INTERNET**

The West Hartford Public Library provides public access to the Internet to:

- enhance the scope of its existing collections and services,
- meet the changing information needs of the community,
- ensure free access to the developing regional, national and global information infrastructures,
- and keep pace with technological advances in the delivery of information.

The Internet is a vast and unregulated information network. It enables library users to access ideas, information, images and commentary beyond the confines of the Library's collection, mission, selection criteria and collection development policies. The West Hartford Public Library cannot control the information accessible through the Internet and does not accept responsibility for its content.

As with other library materials, restriction of a child's access to, and use of, the Internet is the responsibility of the parent/legal guardian. To assist parents in exercising their responsibility to monitor their child's use of the Internet, the library offers filtered Internet access on workstations used primarily by children. Parents should familiarize themselves with the capabilities and limitations of filtering software to determine whether this type of access is appropriate for their child.

Because Internet workstations are located in public areas, which are shared by library users of all ages, backgrounds and sensibilities, individuals are asked to respect the sensibilities of others when accessing potentially offensive information and images. Internet users are subject to the library's general rules regarding behavior in the library including the rule that prohibits activities that interfere with other customers' use of the library.

Library users may not use the Internet to view, print, distribute, display, send or receive images, text or graphics of obscene materials or materials that are harmful to minors. Library personnel may monitor customers' use of the Internet to assure that library policies and procedures are being upheld. Failure to comply with a request from a Library staff member to abide by these policies will result in suspension from the Library. Illegal activities involving the Library's Internet resources will be subject to prosecution by the appropriate authorities and criminal sanctions. Viewing child pornography will be reported immediately to the Police.

The Library Director will establish rules and procedures governing the implementation of this policy.

**APPROVED BY THE WEST HARTFORD LIBRARY BOARD**

June 15, 2004