West Hartford Public Library

POLICY MANUAL

Title: Public Access of the Internet

The West Hartford Public Library ("WHPL") provides public access to the Internet to:
- enhance the accessibility, scope, and variety of its existing collections and services;
- meet the communities' information needs;
- ensure free access to the regional, national and global information infrastructures; and
- keep pace with technological advances in the delivery of information.

Since neither the West Hartford Public Library nor any of its staff controls or screens internet content, users must be aware that some of the information available on the internet may be controversial or offensive, or that some websites may have embedded malicious codes. Users encountering controversial or offensive information should exit the website. Users are responsible for their own conduct. The use of WHPL equipment and/or network is a privilege, not a right. As the owner of the equipment and network, the WHPL reserves the right and authority to withdraw this privilege at any time, without notice.

The WHPL also reserves the right to enforce reasonable time limits for users to ensure that fair use of the public computers is available to all. The WHPL may suspend or revoke internet privileges and/or library privileges for abuse, illegal use, of the Internet, behavior that is disruptive to the library operation and/or other patron's reasonable quiet enjoyment of the library, or because of other violations of this policy. Persons engaged in illegal activities involving the WHPL's Internet resources, including the unlawful use of copyrighted material, will be subject to prosecution. WHPL staff will immediately report the viewing of pornography to the police.

By using WHPL equipment or WHPL's internet, the user knowingly and voluntarily agrees that the WHPL assumes no responsibility for any information (i.e. account numbers, credit card numbers, IMEI numbers, passwords, personal information and or user names), personal equipment, personal webpages, or storage devices that are compromised or damaged due to security issues or consequences caused by viruses, hacking, malicious websites or library systems.

In order to maintain an appropriate and positive atmosphere for young children and teenagers, WHPL uses software filters in the Teen Room and Children's areas. Please monitor your children and their internet use because the filtering software may not be effective at all times. WHPL prohibits access to sites that are sexually explicit in the Teen and Children's areas. Parents should familiarize themselves with the capabilities and limitations of filtering software to determine whether this type of access is appropriate for their child.   It is each parents' responsibility to set the standards and guidelines for their children's use of the Internet and all other library services.