

## **KITSAP REGIONAL LIBRARY**

### **INTERNET SAFETY POLICY: ACCEPTABLE USE**

Kitsap Regional Library offers access to the Internet as part of its mission to provide and promote access to information for the people of Kitsap County.

#### **INTERNET POLICY INTERPRETATIONS:**

The Internet offers access to a wealth of information that is personally, professionally, and culturally enriching. Kitsap Regional Library's website includes links to resources on the Internet that are consistent with the Library's Collection Development Policy. However, users must be aware that they can also access ideas, information, images, and commentary on the Internet that do not meet the Library's selection criteria and collection development policies.

Not all the information available on the Internet is accurate, current, or complete. Users are encouraged to exercise critical judgment in evaluating the appropriateness and validity of information accessed via the Internet. The Library assumes no responsibility for any damages, direct or indirect, arising from its connections to the Internet. Kitsap Regional Library Internet users are prohibited from viewing, printing, and downloading any material defined as illegal, e.g., child pornography, or obscene by local, state, and federal statutes.

Users are cautioned that security in an electronic environment such as the Internet cannot be guaranteed. All transactions, files, and communications, e.g., credit card numbers and e-mail, are vulnerable to unauthorized access and use and should therefore be considered public.

United States copyright law (Title 17, U.S. Code) prohibits the unauthorized reproduction or distribution of copyrighted materials, except as permitted by the principles of "fair use." Full responsibility for any consequences of copyright infringement lies with the user. The Library expressly disclaims any liability or responsibility resulting from illegal use.

"Hacking" and other unlawful online activities are prohibited.

The Library provides technology protection measures (a commercial software Internet filter") on all Internet-access terminals used by the public and staff. Library users must be aware that no existing filter blocks access to all constitutionally unprotected speech. Because of the Internet's unstructured, unregulated, and international nature, the Library cannot guarantee that technology protection measures will block access to all materials falling within the selected blocked categories. It is also possible that the filter will block constitutionally protected material.

In order to provide for the safety and security of its minor Internet users, it is the policy of Kitsap Regional Library to provide filtered access to the Internet for all children under the age of seventeen (17). This means blocking, to the extent technically possible, those Web sites that are considered harmful to minors, or that visually depict adult-oriented or sexually explicit material. All terminals in areas designated for children are restricted to filtered access. Parents and guardians of children under the age of seventeen (17) may request that their children have no Internet access.

## **Internet Safety Policy: Acceptable Use, continued...**

The Library supports parents and guardians in educating their minor children in the responsible and safe use of the Internet by providing informational brochures, books, Web pages, and other materials.

The Library will disable the filter for adults (persons having achieved the age of 17 or older) upon request. Additionally, the Library will unblock specific Internet sites for the viewing of constitutionally protected material. Minors may request that inappropriately blocked sites be unblocked.

Information regarding the options for Internet access will be provided to all library users.

To the extent practical, steps shall be taken to promote the safety and security of users of the Kitsap Regional Library online computer network, when using electronic mail, chat rooms, instant messaging, and other forms of direct electronic communications. Further, the Library will make parents and guardians aware that ultimately they are responsible for their children's safety and security when they use e-mail, chat rooms, and other forms of direct electronic communication. Although the Library prohibits unauthorized disclosure, use, and dissemination of personal identification information by minors, parents must be aware of their responsibility to educate their children in the safe and responsible use of the Internet.

Internet use will be managed according to Kitsap Regional Library's "Standards for User Conduct."<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> *Adopted upon second reading by the Kitsap Regional Library Board of Trustees on October 27, 1997.  
Revision approved on second reading by the Kitsap Regional Library Board of Trustees on September 21, 1999.  
Revision approved upon second reading by the Kitsap Regional Library Board of Trustees on July 17, 2001.  
Revision approved by the Kitsap Regional Library Board of Trustees on December 17, 2003 effective upon upgrade of the new integrated library system software capabilities (effective October 26, 2004).*