

HOLLISTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

INTERNET ACCESS POLICY

The mission of the Holliston Public Library is to “endeavor to enrich the community by connecting people to the world of ideas, information and imagination to support their work, education, personal growth and enjoyment.” To do so, the library provides resources in a variety of formats to ensure access to information. The Internet is one of those resources. The Holliston Public Library does not select the material on the Internet and is not responsible for the accuracy, content, nature or quality of information obtained. The library does not endorse viewpoints presented. As with other library materials, the responsibility of determining what is valuable or appropriate lies with the library patron or, in the case of minors, with their parents or guardians.

Patrons using the Internet are expected to demonstrate judgment, respect for others and appropriate conduct while using library resources and facilities. The library will not tolerate the use of its computers for illegal or unethical activities or to access illegal materials. Patrons are reminded that the computers are located in public areas that are shared by library users and staff of all ages. The viewing of web sites that display pornographic or sexually explicit graphics is not appropriate in a public library setting and is prohibited. Staff are authorized to intercede when this policy is violated.

In the interest of making the Internet as safe as possible for children, the library uses filtering software in the Children’s Room. No filtering device is completely effective or efficient. It may allow access to some sites that could be deemed objectionable and restrict access to sites with legitimate research value. The library urges parents to monitor their child’s Internet use. A parent who would like their child to use an unfiltered workstation in the adult section may do so as long as they accompany the child at all times. The library and the Minuteman Library Network are constantly developing links to recommended sites that are current, authoritative and useful. The staff is available to provide assistance.

Misuse of the library computers may result in the loss of privileges and possibly prosecution. This includes, but is not limited to, attempts to damage the library’s equipment or software, to interfere with security software or to violate copyright

or software licenses. The library cannot assume any responsibility for damages arising directly or indirectly from the use of its Internet workstations. Patrons must obey the rules for using the Internet below.

HOLLISTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
RULES FOR USING THE INTERNET

You must confine your use of the Internet to the posted time limits. Conclude your use 10 minutes before the library closes. You must end your session and leave the computer when asked to do so by a staff member.

The viewing of web sites that display pornographic or sexually explicit graphics is not appropriate in a public library setting and is prohibited.

If you experience problems with a computer or printer, report it immediately to the front desk. Do not attempt to fix it yourself.

A limit of two patrons per computer is allowed.

The saving of or downloading of files to the hard drive is not permitted. You may purchase a floppy disc at the desk for this purpose. The library does not issue individual e-mail accounts and chat rooms are not permitted. Software from outside the library cannot be installed or used.

All printing must be paid for at the front desk before leaving the building.

The staff is available to provide general instruction and help.

Voted by the Holliston Library Trustees on November 14, 2001