

Internet Use Policy

Policy level: Library Board

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1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to balance the provision of internet access to SDG Library users while ensuring that Internet use conforms with all applicable laws and the Library is maintained as a welcoming and supportive environment free from discrimination and harassment.

2. Scope

For the purposes of this policy, the Library's Internet services are defined as wired and wireless networks.

3. Guiding Principles

To fulfill its mission to Create, Connect, and Explore, the SDG Library provides access to a broad range of human knowledge and experience. The Internet enables the Library to connect to ideas, information, and commentary from around the world, and to offer access to many valuable local, national and international resources. Internet access is provided in keeping with the Canadian Federation of Library Association's *Statement on Intellectual Freedom and Libraries*.

4. Policy

The Internet is an unregulated environment. It contains information and opinions that range in scope from reliable and authoritative, to controversial or extremely offensive. Some information found on the Internet may not be accurate, complete, or current. Users must assess the validity of the information found. Users should be aware that the Internet is not a secure medium. Third parties may be able to obtain information about users' activities. The SDG Library is not responsible for the security and privacy of online transactions.

The SDG Library does not manage the content of the information accessed through the Internet, and it assumes responsibility only for the information provided on its own home pages. The Library is not responsible for the site content of links or secondary links from its home pages.

The Library assumes no responsibility and shall have no liability for any direct, indirect or consequential damages arising from the use of information found on the Internet, or any communications sent through the Library's public access computers.

Because access to the Internet in public areas is shared by users of all ages, backgrounds and sensibilities, users are asked to consider this when accessing potentially controversial information or images.

Children's access to the Internet, as with other Library resources, is the responsibility of parents or guardians. The SDG Library supports the right and responsibility of parents or legal guardians to determine and monitor their children's use of library materials and resources. Parents are encouraged to supervise their child's Internet sessions and to inform the child if there are resources they do not want the child to access.

Use of SDG Library Internet services for illegal, actionable or criminal purposes is prohibited. Prohibited activities are listed below but are not limited to:

- Infringement of copyright or other intellectual property rights
- Accessing confidential or protected data without the express authorization of the owner
- Logging onto a computer system to which you are not authorized
- Transmission of spam
- Using Library resources to interfere with computer networking or telecommunications services of any other user, host or network.

The Library takes all measures possible to ensure adequate and reliable access to the Internet at all of its branches, but it cannot guarantee that the Internet will always be available. The SDG Library cannot assume responsibility for poor connectivity or slow speeds.

Free wireless Internet access is available at every SDG Library branch. The Library's wireless access points are unsecured connections to the Internet. Wireless users are responsible for the protection of their devices from viruses, spyware and spam.

The Library is not responsible for the safety of users' personal equipment.

SDG Library staff can provide basic instruction on how to connect to the Internet but are not able to provide in-depth technical assistance.

Users are welcome to charge their devices using designated or publicly available outlets. They may not plug their device into any outlet that has been provided for the Library's own computers or unplug any SDG Library equipment.

In order to protect its network and users, the Library reserves the right to terminate a connection at any time or to withdraw wireless access entirely.

The SDG Library reserves the right to impose user bandwidth restrictions as required and without notice.

Sources used: Toronto Public Library, "Internet Use Policy", 2018; Kingston-Frontenac Public Library, "Internet Policy", 2016.