INTERNET ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY

The Mission of the Sharon Public Library is to serve the informational, educational, cultural, and recreational needs of all members of the Sharon community by providing access to a professional staff, a state of the art facility and quality materials, programs and services.

The use of any Internet workstation and the wireless network in the Sharon Public Library constitutes an acceptance of its Internet Acceptable Use Policy. Patrons reaffirm this agreement each time they access the Internet in the Library.

Internet Access

Patrons accessing the Internet are liable for any infringement of the United States and International Copyright Laws. As a largely unregulated electronic domain, neither the Library Staff nor the Trustees and the town of Sharon have control over the information accessed in the Internet; as such, the Library cannot be held responsible for its content.

Internet users must exercise good judgment and discretion in their use of the library's computers. For privacy and security reasons, Internet users at the Sharon Public Library are strongly discouraged from providing personal or privileged information via the public access computers and its wireless network.

Parents, including legal guardians of children and teenagers (up to the age of 18), should provide parental guidance for their children about safety while browsing the Internet. It is also the responsibility of parents or guardians to advise their children concerning the danger of providing names, addresses, and phone numbers to strangers in chat rooms, social media, and e-mails. Children 13 and younger should use the Internet workstations located in the Children's Room. The Internet workstations in the Children's Room are filtered to restrict access to websites that may be unsafe or inappropriate for children. Internet workstations for adult use are available on the upper floor.

Procedures for Use of Internet Workstations

Reservation and print management software is in use on the adult computers. Patrons must sign in using their own library card or a temporary barcode, available at the Reference desk.

In accordance with this policy, the user may not use the library computers for illegal activity or place any materials on the Internet related to any illegal activity. It is the responsibility of the user to respect copyright laws and licensing agreements and assume responsibility for payment of fees for any fee-based services.

Library Bill of Rights and filtering software

The Sharon Public Library subscribes to the interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights titled "Access to Digital Information, Services, and Networks" calling for free and unfettered access to the Internet for any library user, regardless of age. The "Resolution on the Use of Filtering Software in Libraries" and the "Statement on Library Use of Filtering Software" reiterate the U.S. Supreme Court's declaration in *Reno v. American Civil Liberties Union* that the Internet is a forum of free expression deserving full constitutional protection. The resolution and statement condemn as a violation of the Library Bill of Rights any use by libraries of filtering software that blocks access to constitutionally protected speech.

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In 2015, the ALA Council adopted [Internet Filtering: An Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights](#) which provides a comprehensive summary of the association's position on internet filtering.

Wireless Internet Access

The Sharon Public Library's Internet Acceptable Use Policy governs the use of its wireless network. Wireless Internet access is free and is available for patrons during and after regular service hours without time limit at various locations in the Library.

As with most public wireless networks, the Internet access via our wireless connection is not secure and the use of it is entirely at the risk of the user. Anti-virus and security protection of personal laptops, notebooks, and other mobile devices are the responsibility of the owner.

The Sharon Public Library cannot guarantee that a user's device will work with the Library's wireless access points. Reference and Information Service Librarians can help with general information and guidance on the use of e-readers and other library devices, but are not responsible for any damages or loss of information to patron's devices. Library staff can provide general information and guidance on how to connect to the Library's wireless network.

Printing and Capturing Information from the Internet

Information from the Internet can be printed from any patron workstation for a fee. Please ask for assistance at the Reference/Information Desk for any computer and/or printer problem. Printing via the wireless network is not available at this time.

To ensure privacy and security of personal information, patrons are required to bring their own removable storage device such as USB drives to save documents from the public computers in the Library.

Restrictions on Internet Access

A patron using the Library's computers and its wireless network is limited to the existing hardware, software, and system configuration. Users may not use the Internet for any illegal activity such as hacking, vandalizing, viewing pornographic materials and other graphic images considered obscene in public settings, or place any material on the Internet related to any illegal activity. It is the responsibility of the user to respect copyright laws and licensing agreements and assume responsibility for payment of fees for any fee-based service. Users shall not install software programs or make modifications to any library computer. Users are not permitted to store personal files on library computers.

Enforcement and Consequences

The Sharon Public Library's Internet Acceptable Use Policy is an operational guideline for all patrons using the Internet as an integral library service. The Policy also enables the staff to enforce the rules and procedures as stated in a fair and reasonable manner. Library staff has the right to tell the offending patron to leave the library effective immediately. Any violation of this Library Policy will result in suspension of computer and wireless use privileges or both. The Sharon Public Library will not tolerate use of its computers and network in a way that violates local, state, and federal law. Serious violation will be punished to the full extent of the law.