

POLICY: **INTERNET USE**

SECTION: **III - Public Service Policies - Other**

MOTION#/DATE: **98 - 152 - October 26, 1998**

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99 - 125 - October 18, 1999

To fulfill its mission to deliver information in a wide range of formats, and in keeping with the Canadian Library Association intellectual freedom statements, the Toronto Public Library provides public access to the Internet.

The Internet enables the Library to connect electronically to ideas, information and commentary from around the globe and to offer access to many valuable local, national and international resources.

The Internet is an **unregulated**, worldwide 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 and that third parties may be able to obtain information about users= activities.

Children are entitled to access to all information and facilities in the Library. As with other library materials, children=s access to the Internet and other electronic networks is the responsibility of parents or guardians.

In keeping with the public library=s long-standing tradition of providing age-appropriate materials for children in safe and welcoming environments, workstations designated for children will be filtered. The Toronto Public Library assumes no responsibility for the accuracy and effectiveness of any installed filter.

With the exception of filters on designated children=s workstations, the Library does not manage the content of the information accessed through the Internet and 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 Toronto Public Library assumes no responsibility for any direct or indirect claims, damages or costs, howsoever caused, sought by users or third parties arising from its provision of access to Internet services.



Toronto Public Library=s users are subject to federal, provincial and municipal legislation regulating Internet use, including the provisions of the *Criminal Code* regarding obscenity, child pornography, sedition and the incitement of hate. The use of the Library=s Internet services for illegal purposes is prohibited, and may result in prosecution.

To ensure equitable access to the Internet and efficient use of resources, the Library has developed service use guidelines. The Library reserves the right to modify these guidelines when and where appropriate.

Certain copying or distribution of material found on the Internet may infringe on the copyright or other intellectual property rights. The Library is not responsible for such infringements.

This *Internet Use Policy* incorporates by reference the Toronto Public Library=s *Rules of Conduct* including the *Rules for Exclusion/Reinstatement*. Violations of this Policy and/or the Rules may result in suspension of library privileges and exclusion from the Library, as well as prosecution.



POLICY: RULES OF CONDUCT

SECTION: III - Public Service Policies - Other

MOTION#/DATE: 98 - 25 - January 29, 1998

The Toronto Public Library provides everyone with equitable access to a wide range of library services in welcoming surroundings. These rules are to prevent disruptions to library services, ensure the safety of public and staff and maintain the security of library property. Staff make every effort to apply these rules in a fair, dignified and positive manner for the benefit of all.

We ask your cooperation in maintaining an environment conducive to study and enjoyable use of the library.

1. Damage, misuse, or theft of library materials, equipment and property is not allowed. Interfering with the designated use of computers and networks is also not allowed.
2. Threatening, abusive or harassing language or behaviour is prohibited.
3. Disruptive or intrusive behaviour is not allowed.
4. Members of the public may not make requests for service based on prohibited grounds of discrimination under the Human Rights Code.
5. Children requiring supervision must not be left unattended on library premises.
6. Members of the public may only use authorized entrances and exits and are not allowed in "Staff Only" areas without permission.
7. Members of the public must open all bags, books and papers for inspection if requested by staff.



8. Library materials may not be taken into washrooms.
9. Posting notices, distributing circulars or petitions, soliciting or engaging in any commercial activity on library property must not be conducted without prior written approval of the Library.
10. Photographing, filming or video recording on library property must not be conducted without prior written approval of the Library.
11. Members of the public must wear shirts and shoes or other appropriate attire. Use of sports equipment is not allowed on library property.
12. Eating and drinking are not allowed, except in designated areas.
13. Animals are not permitted in library buildings, except in authorized programs or when needed to assist a person with a disability.

Any violations of the Rules of Conduct may result in cost-recovery charges, suspension of library privileges, exclusion from the Library and prosecution. These Rules have been approved by the Toronto Public Library Board.



