



WHITBY PUBLIC LIBRARY

doorway to discovery

Policy Type:	Public	
Policy Title:	Internet Access Policy	
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Whitby Public Library Internet Access Policy

The Whitby Public Library offers public Internet access to assist in meeting the information, recreation and entertainment needs of the community. The Internet allows users global access to information, ideas, and opinions. The Internet is an unregulated environment and some information found through its use may be considered controversial, inaccurate, outdated, or offensive. The Library assumes responsibility only for the information provided on its home pages and is not responsible for the content of pages available through links on its home pages. The Whitby Public Library does not monitor information accessed over the Internet and is not responsible for the accuracy, currency or appropriateness of such material. The Library advises patrons to critically evaluate information found while using the Internet. The Whitby Public Library assumes no responsibility for damages, direct or indirect, arising from its provision of Internet access. The Whitby Public Library does not guarantee the security of any personal information transmitted via the Internet using the Library's connection. The Whitby Public Library does not accept responsibility for damage to any user's storage device or computer, or for any loss of data, damage, or liability that may occur from patron use of the Library's Internet connection or malfunctioning Library hardware, software or supply of power.

The Whitby Public Library supports the Canadian Library Association's *Statement of Intellectual Freedom* and provides unfiltered Internet access terminals for its patrons. Some information or images found on the Internet may be inappropriate for children. Children, ages 13 and under, must have express written permission of a parent or guardian to use the unfiltered public Internet terminals. To ensure that children may use the Internet in a child-friendly and welcoming environment, the Library provides terminals equipped with commercial filtering software in the Children's area of the Central Library and where space permits at the community branches. Filters are intended to block material that may be considered inappropriate for children. The Whitby Public Library assumes no responsibility for accuracy and effectiveness of any filtering software. As with all library resources, parents or guardians are responsible for their children's access to the Internet. The Library provides links to guidelines for on-line safety for parents and children through the Library website.

Users of Whitby Public Library Internet services are subject to federal, provincial and municipal legislation regulating Internet use, including the provisions of the Criminal Code regarding obscenity, child pornography, hatred and sedition. The use of the Library's Internet services for illegal purposes is prohibited and will result in loss of library privileges and may result in prosecution.

The Internet Use Policy incorporates by reference the Whitby Public Library's *Rules of Conduct*. The Library's Rules of Conduct are designed to provide a safe and welcoming environment. Users must comply with these rules while using the Internet. Disruptive, threatening, or otherwise intrusive behaviour is not allowed. This also includes: violation of Criminal Code, federal, provincial or municipal legislation; display of sexually explicit material; transmission of threatening, abusive, libelous, defamatory material; tampering with Library hardware, software, or security systems.

Daily time limits have been instituted due to high demand for public Internet terminals. Posted time limits must be adhered to and must not be violated by any means.

Violations of this Policy and/or the Rules of Conduct may result in suspension of library privileges and exclusion from the Library, as well as prosecution. The Library reserves the right to end a computer session.

Certain copying or distribution of material found on the Internet may infringe Canadian copyright laws. The Whitby Public Library is not responsible for such infringements.

Library staff are available to assist patrons with the Internet. However, public service staff cannot provide in-depth instruction. Library staff cannot complete online applications or make financial transactions on behalf of patrons.