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| <b>Policy 5-8</b> | <b>Internet Use and Safety Policy</b> | <b>Created:</b> 4/2/2015<br><b>Revised:</b> 2/28/2019<br><b>Approved:</b> 3/14/2019 |
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**I. Purpose**

This policy clarifies the use of Internet resources by the public, staff and volunteers in facilities operated by Jackson County Library Services (JCLS).

Jackson County Library Services (JCLS) endeavors to provide collections, resources, and services that meet the cultural, informational, recreational and educational needs of the diverse communities which it serves. Within this context, JCLS offers access to the Internet for both members of the public and staff.

Resources available on the Internet supplement and complement the collection and resources available at JCLS facilities. JCLS does not monitor and has no control over the information available over the Internet. The Internet may contain material of a controversial nature. Users should note that not all Internet sources provide accurate, complete or current information.

**II. Introduction**

It is the Library’s goal to provide library users access to information and communication available on the Internet which is deemed to be constitutionally protected speech. Only those regulations which are required to provide equitable access to library resources, prevent vandalism or illegal activity, avoid the creation of a sexually hostile environment, or which are needed to protect the health and safety of minors, will be imposed. This policy shall not be applied in such a manner as to restrict access to information or communication using content as a criteria. Library users have the constitutional right to access objectionable material.

The Library does have the authority to regulate behavior within its facilities, if such behavior would jeopardize the health and safety of minors, or would result in the creation of a sexually hostile environment for staff and library users. Access to, use of, or dissemination of, constitutionally unprotected (legally obscene) speech is unacceptable in the Library.

It is the policy of Jackson County Library Services to:

- Prevent user access over its computer network to, or transmission of, obscene material via Internet, electronic mail or other forms of direct electronic communications
- Comply with the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA)
- Prevent unauthorized access and other unlawful online activity
- Prevent unauthorized online disclosure, use or dissemination of personal identification information regarding minors



All Library computers with Internet access use a technology protection measure to block, filter or otherwise protect against access to visual depictions that are obscene, child pornography or harmful to minors. No filter can guarantee total success in this objective.

The library's filtering policy upholds the principles of intellectual freedom, allowing patrons who are 18 years of age or older, to make their own choices regarding filtering.

JCLS provides free wireless Internet access in all libraries. Wireless Internet access is filtered, and all Library policies concerning legal, acceptable and safe use of computers and the Internet apply. Virus protection through the wireless access points is the user's responsibility.

Library users should not have an expectation of privacy when using any form of electronic media through JCLS computers or wireless access points.

### **III. Reconsideration of Web Sites**

Any resident of Jackson County may submit a form requesting the blocking or unblocking of a given website. The site will be reviewed by professional library staff and a decision will be the responsibility of the Library Director. [Request for Reconsideration of Library Materials](#)

### **IV. Supervising Computer Use by Children**

Access for all patrons under age 18 will be filtered in accordance with CIPA requirements. Filtering software may not block all material users find offensive. Parents or legal guardians are responsible for determining what materials are appropriate for use by the children and young adults (17 and under) for whom they are responsible. Library staff cannot know the maturity level and family values of each patron. Consent given on the part of parents or legal guardians for a library card constitutes acknowledgment by the parents or guardians that they have a responsibility for monitoring their child's use of all library resources, including the public computers.

The following are recommended guidelines for parents and guardians to ensure that children have positive online experiences, whether at home or at the library.

- Explore the wide range of available information and tell your children about sites you consider inappropriate for them.
- Provide guidelines for your children on the amount of time they spend online, just as for television viewing.
- Teach children to never give out personal identification information (name, address, password, telephone number, social security number, credit card number) about themselves or others without first asking a parent for permission.
- Teach children to be good online consumers. As with print information, consider the source, date, and accuracy of online information.
- Teach minors to exercise discretion and caution when communicating using the Internet, electronic mail, chat rooms, and other forms of direct electronic communications in order to remain safe and secure (e.g. avoidance of predators, cyber-bullying, and scams).

## **V. Internet Acceptable Use Rules for All Users**

Use of Library technology by each and every patron, staff member or volunteer shall constitute that person's acknowledgment of, and agreement to abide by, this Internet Use and Safety Policy, including guidelines for use of the Internet by minors.

- The Internet computer equipment and software provided by the Library must be used as installed. Deletion, addition, or modification of installed hardware or software is not permitted.
- Users shall not disclose, use or disseminate personal identification information regarding minors without proper authorization.
- Users shall utilize the Library network for lawful activities only. They shall not use the network to cause harm to others or damage the property of others. They shall not intentionally upload, download or create computer viruses or other forms of malicious programming, attempt to harm or destroy equipment, manipulate the data of any other user, or seek unauthorized access to networks and systems, including so-called "hacking."
- Patrons are expected to adhere to all rules governing the use of the Internet in libraries, including the duration and frequency of sessions.
- Patrons who violate library policy regarding the use of the Internet or who behave in a disruptive manner will be asked to either modify their use appropriately or have their Internet usage access terminated.

The library is a public place and library staff has the authority to end an Internet session if material which is obscene to a library setting is displayed. Internet access is intended to be used as an information resource.

All Internet use is subject to JCLS's [Rules of Conduct Policy/Normas de Conducta](#).

## **VI. Use of Content from the JCLS Website**

The Library encourages library patrons to use materials from the JCLS Website, as long as the use follows these guidelines:

The JCLS Website contains a wide range of content, including materials that are in the public domain and materials that are protected by copyright. In cases where materials on the JCLS Website are protected by third party rights, a user is responsible for obtaining permission in order to use the materials in question. For example, to download a photo that is still protected by copyright for use in a research paper, the user must determine whether the proposed use requires consent from the copyright holder, and, if so, secure the permission of the copyright holder. In some cases, a user may also need to secure the consent of people who appear in photographs in our collections.



The Library staff does not provide advice to users about which materials are protected by third party rights and which materials may be used freely. The following website has information about copyright, fair use and other related topics which may be useful:

<http://www.copyright.gov>

It is a user's obligation to determine and satisfy copyright or other use restrictions when publishing or otherwise distributing materials from the Library's collections. Users are solely responsible for determining whether the use of any digital object requires the permission of any other person or entity and for paying any associated fees. If uncertain about the legal issues surrounding the use of digital objects, please consult an attorney.

## **VII. Termination of Use**

JCLS may, in its sole discretion, terminate or suspend a user's access to and use of this Site without notice and for violation of these Terms of Use or for other conduct which the Library, in its sole discretion, believes is unlawful or harmful to others. In the event of termination, use of this site no longer be authorized, and JCLS will use any means possible to enforce this termination.

## **VIII. Disclaimers**

All materials on this Site are provided "as is" without a warranty of any kind, either express or implied, including but not limited to the implied warranties of merchantability, fitness for a particular use, and/or non-infringement. The Library assumes no responsibility for damage to your computer or other property resulting from your use of this Site. Any downloading or obtaining of material or data through this Site is done at the user's own risk. In addition, JCLS disclaims any and all responsibility or liability for the accuracy, reliability, and legality of materials found on this Site.

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