Racine Public Library
Internet Access and Wireless Network Policy

I. **Purpose and Access to Internet Resources**

It is the policy of Racine Public Library to make Internet and wireless network resources available to its community members along with collections of print, non-print and electronic reference resources. The addition of Internet and wireless network resources is a way to enhance public access to ideas and information that are not available in print sources, while also consistent with our mission of providing easy and open access to information for all segments of the community. In order to provide this service in an orderly and equitable manner to all users, while complying with the legal and financial restrictions applicable, the Racine Public Library adopts the policies stated in this document.

The Library's computer system, through the Internet, provides the opportunity to integrate electronic resources from information networks around the world with the Library's other resources. While the Internet offers access to a wealth of material that is personally, professionally, and culturally enriching to individuals of all ages, it also enables access to some material that may be inaccurate, offensive, disturbing, and/or illegal. It is unacceptable to use the Library's Internet equipment to send, receive or display text or graphics which may reasonably be construed as obscene.

The Library has installed technology protection measures, commonly called "Internet filters," on all Internet workstations in an effort to block the availability of obscene and pornographic materials in the Library. These measures, although effective, may not always block what the Library intended. The Racine Public Library recognizes that no filtering software is perfect; it does allow some inappropriate content to inadvertently pass through, and can also block appropriate sites from view.

II. **User Rights and Responsibilities**

The Library cannot control or monitor the vast amount of material accessible from computers and networks via the Internet. Individual users must accept responsibility for sites visited and links followed. The user is responsible for verification of information found on the Internet. Library staff is available to provide assistance and to help identify appropriate sites. The user, however, is the selector when using the Internet, with individual choices and decisions.

The Library upholds and affirms the right of each individual to have access to constitutionally protected material. The Library also affirms the right and responsibility of parents/guardians to determine and monitor their children's use of Library materials, information selected and/or accessed by their children on the Internet, and other resources. Therefore, it is assumed that children and young adults from age eight through seventeen who are unattended in the Library have parental permission to use all Library resources.

Use of the Internet is a privilege, not a right, and inappropriate use will result in a suspension of Library privileges. All users of the Internet are expected to use this resource in a responsible manner, consistent with the educational and information purposes for which it is provided, and consistent with all regulations as outlined in our Library Commitment to Excellence for All policy.

III.   Conditions and Terms of Use in the Library

- The Library reserves the right to regulate access to Internet sites based on bandwidth and network functionality in order to provide reasonable access to all users.
- Users printing material from the Internet will be charged on a per page basis.
- The Library has established Rules and Regulations which make Internet stations available on a fair and equitable basis to all customers.
- The Library provides wireless Internet access. Patrons are responsible for configuring and protecting their own equipment. The Library's wireless network is an open public network and the Library is not responsible for any damages arising from its use.
- The Library cannot guarantee Internet speed, the quality of wireless connection, or that wireless service will be available at any specific time.
- Patrons should respect the privacy of others who are using a computer or while using a computer themselves.
- The Library has in good faith installed security software on its public computers to prevent fraudulent activity on its network. No system is foolproof. The Library expects its customers to take measures to protect their personal confidential information. The Library does not take responsibility for any breach of personal information while using library computers.
- Failure to act in conformance with this policy may result in revocation of Internet use privileges.

The Executive Director shall be responsible for developing and implementing procedures governing use of the Library's Internet workstations. These procedures shall be consistent with the principles outlined in this policy. The Library may establish restrictions such as time limits to encourage equitable access to Internet terminals.

Racine Public Library
Internet Access and Wireless Network Rules and Regulations

Youth Services
- Internet access in the Youth Services Department is intended primarily for youth thirteen and under. The Library reserves the right to ask adults and high schools students to use the workstations in the Adult Department.
- Children under the age of eight may use these workstations only when directly supervised by a parent or guardian as required by the Library's Safe Child Policy.

Adult Services
- Internet access in the Adult Services Department is for users who are fourteen years of age and older.
- Adults with small children are encouraged to use the Internet workstations in the Youth Services Department. If accessing the Internet workstations in the Adult Services Department, that adult assumes full responsibility for any images or text to which the child might be exposed.

TeenScene
- Internet access in the TeenScene is for users who are ages thirteen through eighteen.

General
- Due to the limited number of Internet workstations, access is limited to three hours per day of Internet access, unless otherwise authorized by a library staff member.
- Library accounts may only be used by the person whose name is on the account.
- External devices can be connected to library computers with the following restrictions
  - Software cannot be installed or run from, or to support, external devices.
  - Only standard Windows compatible devices can be used.

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