



Scituate Town Library Internet Use Policy

(Developed by the Board of Trustees in July 1996, revised in 1999, 2005, 2008)

In response to advances in technology and the changing needs of the community, the Scituate Town Library endeavors to develop and provide appropriate access to library collections, resources and services that meet the cultural, informational, recreational, and educational needs of the residents of Scituate.

The Internet, as accessed through the library, is intended to be an educational and informational tool. The library provides Internet access in the Reference Department during hours of operation. Internet access is available to users in grade 5 and above, and to younger patrons who are accompanied by a parent or caregiver. All Internet users are required to present a valid library card or a picture ID prior to use and to agree to the terms of this policy.

The Scituate Town Library does not monitor and has no control over the information accessed through the Internet and cannot be held responsible for its content. As with any other library materials, restriction of a child's access to the Internet is the responsibility of the parent or legal guardian.

Due to the public nature of library workspaces, patrons using either the library computers or personal computers need to be aware that material displayed on their screens may be visible to other patrons. Therefore, computer users may not utilize the Library's direct Internet access or the wireless connection provided by the Library to view or display pictures, images, or other visual depictions of obscene material or material that violates laws relating to child pornography. Library users may not disseminate, exhibit or display to minors materials that are harmful to minors.

It is not acceptable for a minor to receive any material that is deemed harmful under the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) through a web site, email, chat room or other direct electronic communication. Unacceptable material includes any picture, image, graphic image file, or other visual depiction that, with respect to minors, appeals to a prurient interest in sexuality. For a full explanation, see a summary of the CIPA description of inappropriate material, which is part of this policy and which is available on request.

It is not acceptable to use Internet access for any purposes which violate federal, state or local laws. Examples of unacceptable use include, but are not limited to: harassment of library users or staff; libeling or slandering others; violation of computer security systems, unauthorized use of computer accounts, access codes, or network identification numbers assigned to others; destruction or damage to equipment, software or data belonging to the library or other users; disruption or unauthorized monitoring of electronic communications; unauthorized copying of copyright protected materials.

Violations of this policy will result in loss of computer privileges and may result in the loss of library privileges. Illegal acts involving library computing resources may be subject to prosecution by local, state or federal authorities.

Sign-in to use the Internet at the checkout desk. Maximum use per person is one hour per day. If you neglect to sign in, or you move to another computer without permission, your Internet use privileges may be forfeited.

All public computers must be vacated 15 minutes prior to the closing of the library. On Monday through Thursday, the library closes at 9:00 PM. On Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, the library closes at 5:00 PM. Please do not shut down the computer. The staff is responsible for all computer troubleshooting and for shutting down computers prior to closing the building.

These computers are for individual use of the Internet. Any request for use by more than one person must be approved by the librarian in charge.

[Three Internet computers are also equipped with word processing and spreadsheet software. Please inquire at the checkout desk to sign up for these computers.](#)