

## **Novi Public Library**

### **Internet Use Policy**

**Consistent with Novi Public Library's mission to support the educational, cultural, informational and recreational needs of its diverse community, public access Internet computers are provided. The Internet offers unlimited global access to data. The information available through the Internet changes rapidly and unpredictably. The Library cannot monitor or control the content of the materials available through the Internet.**

#### **1) Staff Assistance**

- a) Whether information is stored on paper or electronically, the professional staff of Novi Public Library is trained to assist and guide the public through their information search. Library staff receives continuing education on Internet policy implementation. Each public access Internet computer will also have use instructions available in both print and electronic format. In addition, many published Internet reference guides are available for public use.

#### **2) Children and the Internet**

- a) Parents and legal guardians have the responsibility to supervise their children's access to the Internet. Novi Public Library strongly encourages parents/guardians to supervise their children's Internet activities.
- b) In compliance with Michigan Public Act 212 of 2000 (SB 936) Novi Public Library provides the following system designed to prevent a minor from viewing obscene matter or sexually explicit matter that is harmful to minors as defined in section 4 of 1978 PA 33, MCL 722.674.
  - i) Public Internet computers provide access to search engines that are filtered.
  - ii) Public Internet computers are placed in high-traffic, visible areas of the library
  - iii) Public Internet computers have security screens
  - iv) A separate area is provided for youth public Internet computers
  - v) Materials are provided for parents/guardians regarding Internet safety for children
  - vi) Classes on Internet safety are provided for children and adults

vii) Librarians respond to reports of patrons under 18 viewing, printing and/or downloading matter that is considered harmful to minors by:

- (1) Advising patron that a report or complaint has been received
- (2) Verifying age of patron
- (3) Informing patron that this matter cannot be accessed by them at the library
- (4) Informing patron that failure to comply with this policy will result in a loss of Internet privileges at Novi Public Library
- (5) The Library Director may impose longer or permanent restrictions for repeated violations of this policy. Individuals may appeal their restrictions to the Novi Library Board.

### **3) Choosing and Evaluating Sources**

- a) Novi Public Library does not restrict access to the Internet. Choosing access points is the responsibility of the user.
- b) Novi Public Library has no control over the Internet and its resources and is not responsible for the accuracy, quality or currency of any Internet resource.
- c) Novi Public Library and its officers, directors and employees shall not be liable for any damages (direct or consequential) for any information obtained or provided on the Internet.
- d) Users should evaluate Internet sources just as they do print materials.
- e) The Internet may contain materials of a controversial nature.

### **4) Purposes**

- a) Internet computers may only be used for legal purposes. Examples of unacceptable use include, but are not limited to, the following: viewing of matter that is harmful to minors as defined by section 4 of 1978 PA 33, MCL 722.674 by individuals under 18 years of age, harassment of other users; libeling or slandering other users; 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 material. Violations may result in loss of access.

## 5) Copyright

- a) U. S. copyright law (Title 17, U. S. Code) prohibits the unauthorized reproduction or distribution of copyrighted materials, except as permitted by the principles of "fair use." Users may not copy or distribute electronic materials (including electronic mail, text, images, programs or data) without the explicit permission of the copyright holder. Any responsibility for any consequences of copyright infringement lies with the user; the Library expressly disclaims any liability or responsibility resulting from such use.

## 6) Procedures

- a) Specific procedures for activities such as signing in for Internet use, downloading and uploading are posted at each computer.

**Approved by the Novi Public Library Board, August 5, 1996:  
Updated September 1999, December 2004**