Internet Use Policy

The Independence Public Library is providing access to the Internet as a means to enhance the information and learning opportunities for the citizens of the library's service area. Library Staff is not expected to train the users or do the searches for them. The Board of Trustees has established the Internet use policy to ensure appropriate and effective use of this resource.

The library provides Internet access. However, this service may be restricted at any time for use not consistent with the adopted guidelines.

Parents of minor children must assume responsibility for their children's use of the library's Internet service. *All young people under the age of 18 must have signed permission by their parents on file to use the Internet.*

Each user is allowed one 1-hour session. If there is no patron waiting for the service at the end of a session, the user can have another 30 minute's use.

Expectations:

Users should be aware that the inappropriate use of electronic information resources can be a violation of local, state, and federal laws and can lead to prosecution. The user will be held responsible for his/her actions using the Internet. Users are expected to abide by the policies below which include generally accepted rules of network etiquette. Unacceptable use of the service will result in the suspension or revocation of Internet use privileges *for one day. Repeated unacceptable usage may result in complete loss of privileges.*

Warnings:

The Internet is a decentralized, unmoderated global network; the
Independence Public Library has no control over the content found there. The library will not censor access to material nor protect users from offensive information, and it is not responsible for the availability and accuracy of information found on the Internet. The Independence Public Library adheres to *K.S.A. 21-4301, K.S.A. 21-4301b, K.S.A. 2-4301c,* and *K.S.T.A. 21-3516,* to help protect minors from exploitation.

In order to restrict access to those materials that are child pornography
harmful to minors or obscene all Internet connections have filtering that complies with the Children's Internet Protection Act and Kansas House
Bill   2109.
The library cannot assure that data or files downloaded by users are virus-free. The library is not responsible for damages to equipment or data on a user's personal computer from the use of data downloaded from the library's Internet service.

The use of the Internet and e-mail is not guaranteed to be private. Messages relating to or in support of illegal activities will be reported to the proper authorities.

Guidelines:

Users may use the Internet for research and the acquisition of information to address their educational, vocational, cultural, and recreational needs.

Users may use the Internet for the receipt and transmission of electronic mail (e-mail) as long as they use an e-mail service which does not incur a cost to the Library and which will establish and maintain an account for them. The Library is unable to manage e-mail accounts for any organizations or individuals.

The user will not disclose, use and or disseminate personal information that could threaten or create vulnerability for a minor, for any other person or for the library.

The users will not participate in email, chat room or instant messages that use information that is obscene as defined by Kansas Law: K.S.A. 21-4301a and K.S.A. 21-4301c, as amended.

Users will respect and uphold copyright laws and all other applicable laws and regulations; they will not *copy materials for* illegal purposes*: United States Code, title 17, Section 107.*

Users will respect the rights and privacy of others by not accessing private files

Users agree not to incur any costs for the library through their use of the Internet service.

Users shall not create and/or distribute computer viruses over the Internet

Users shall not deliberately or willfully cause damage to computer equipment, programs, or parameters

Users will not use library computers to access unauthorized secure data, including so-called "hacking." Violations will be immediately reported to appropriate law enforcement officials.

WiFi Policy

The Independence Public Library now allows for personal computer equipment to access the Internet via a wireless network throughout the entire building which is incorporated by reference herein.

Persons utilizing the wireless connection agree to comply with all provisions of the current Independence Public Library Internet Policy which is incorporated by reference herein.

The Independence Public Library wireless connection is unencrypted and unfiltered. Use of the wireless connection is done at the patron's own risk. By using this connection, patrons acknowledge that security errors and hacking are an inherent risk associated with any wireless service. For that reason, patrons expressly agree that they knowingly assume such risk, and further agree to hold the Library harmless from any claim or loss arising out of, or related to, any such instance of hacking or other unauthorized use or access into the patron's electronic device.

The Independence Public Library accepts no responsibility for any software downloaded and/or installed, email opened, or sites accessed while patrons are on the wireless Internet connection. Any damage done to the patron's equipment or self from viruses, identity theft, spyware, plug-ins, or other Internet-borne programs is the sole responsibility of the patron; and the patron indemnifies and holds harmless the Independence Public Library from any such damage.

The Independence Public Library accepts no responsibility regarding the ability of patron owned equipment to connect to the wireless network. Library staff will not change settings on patron equipment.

(This section revised Sept. 2010)