

# **TOM GREEN COUNTY LIBRARY**

## **ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY**

The mission of the Tom Green County Library is to provide educational, informational, and recreational resources to patrons of all ages, cultural, and economic backgrounds.

It is thus the policy of the Tom Green County Library to maintain public access to local, national, and international sources of information. These information sources shall include all available formats of information, including the Internet.

The Internet, as an information resource, enables the Library to provide information beyond the confines of its own collection. It allows access to ideas, information and commentary from around the globe. Currently, however, it is an unregulated medium. As such, while it 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 offensive, disturbing and/or illegal.

In introducing the Internet as an information resource, the Tom Green County Library's goal is to enhance its existing collection in size and depth and as a public access agency give opportunity to any citizen who wishes to participate in navigating the Internet.

**The Tom Green County Library has no control over the information which can be accessed through the Internet and is not responsible for its content. Library patrons are responsible for the information accessed by their children. Only parents may restrict the Internet resources chosen by their children beyond the restrictions set for all library patrons. Parents are advised to supervise children's use of the Internet.**

Users of the Internet connections provided by the Tom Green County Library are expected to use the network appropriately. (See Internet Access Guidelines.)

## INTERNET ACCESS GUIDELINES

1. In order to avoid the possibility of computer contamination from viruses, you may not use your own software programs on the Internet access computer. You may save or transfer files to a floppy disk in drive A. Diskettes can be purchased from the library staff for a minimal charge.
2. Software downloaded from the Internet may contain a virus and should be checked for viruses. The Tom Green County Library is not responsible for damage to a patron's disk or computer, nor for any damage, liability, or loss of data that may occur from patron use of the library computers.
3. Internet access is available during the library's normal open hours. **The computer will be turned off at 10 minutes before closing time.** Absolutely no exceptions will be made to this policy.
4. Use of Internet Access computers will be limited to two, one-hour sessions per a day. **A valid library card is required to access the Internet. No exceptions.**
5. Use of Internet station is limited to one person at a time. The Information Desk Staff will determine exceptions.
6. Electronic mail: The Tom Green County Library does not provide electronic mail accounts for public use.
7. **The following actions are cause for removal of networking privileges:**
  - Any action that violated copyright.
  - Any action that interferes with use of the information resources.
  - Any action that seeks to gain unauthorized access to informational resources.
  - Any action that seeks to defraud or obtain money or other values by false representation.
  - Any action that seeks to invade the privacy of individuals.
  - Any action that destroys, alerts, prevents, or interferes with computer-based information.
  - The sending, receiving, or displaying of text or graphics that may be reasonably construed as obscene.
  - Using the library's Internet connection for commercial purposes.
8. Any violation of the Acceptable Use policy may result in the individual being denied access to the library's facilities.
9. Misuse includes the intentional accessing of images or print deemed to be inappropriate by the staff member in charge.

10. Misuse of the computer or Internet access will result in the loss of your computer privileges.
11. The library reserves the right to update and change this policy at any time without notice. It is the responsibility of the patron to read and accept the current version of the policy.

The Tom Green County Library assumes no responsibility for any damages, direct or indirect, arising from the use of its World Wide Web server, or from its connections to other Internet services.