



POLICY

Policy Type: Library Services **Policy Number:** 03-02
Policy Title: Use of Electronic Resources

Purpose:

To establish an Internet use policy that identifies and defines the appropriate use and responsibility requirements for public users of computers and electronic resources in the Library.

Internet Access:

Public computers are provided on a first come, first served basis. Residents must present their valid St. Thomas Public Library card, and visitors must present valid ID, in order to use the public computer workstations.

A valid St. Thomas Public Library card is defined as a current card that is not "blocked" due to materials assumed lost, or excessive fees and fines.

Public computer workstations may be used for up to two hours per day. Exceptions can be made if requested in advance (e.g. exams).

Parents or guardians are responsible for their children's use of the Internet.

Wireless Access:

Wireless internet access is available during regular library hours. No reservation is required.

Other Public Computers:

Some computers, appropriately labeled, are designated for specific purposes (e.g.- Catalogue Search, Microfilm, Early Literacy Stations) and should not be used for other purposes.

The Early Literacy Stations in the Children's and Teen's Services area are intended for the use of children up to age 8.

Usage of technology in the Library's makerspace (Creators' Corner) falls under the rules and regulations listed in the Library's Creators' Corner Policy.

General:

St. Thomas Public Library is responsible only for its own website. Information and the user experience provided on other sites, whether linked to the St. Thomas Public Library site or not, are not the responsibility of St. Thomas Public Library.

Library staff will offer support only for Library provided hardware and software and will be guided by the Library's Policy on Intellectual Freedom. Staff will assist only in as much as their knowledge, skills, and time permit.

Software and hardware configurations are not to be changed, added, or altered by anyone other than Library staff.

Any user violating this policy or rules of the Library is subject to loss of access privileges along with any other actions deemed appropriate, up to and including criminal charges.

Legal:

The St. Thomas Public Library public computer workstations are to be used in strict accordance with the rules herein and with all local, Provincial and Federal Acts, Statutes and Regulations.

Parents and caregivers are responsible for the actions of any children under their supervision. The staff of the Library does not monitor the use of, evaluate or censor the material that children access, or how they use it.

Internet Content

The Library provides access to all content that is available on the Internet, and it does not utilize any content-filtering technology.

- St. Thomas Public Library (STPL) endorses the Statement on Intellectual Freedom as set out by the Canadian Library Association and echoed by the Canadian Federation of Library Associations. STPL also endorses the Ontario Library Association's Statement on Intellectual Freedom and the Intellectual Rights of the Individual and the Ontario Library Association statement on Children's Rights in the Public Library (1998)

The Library does not guarantee the accuracy, integrity, or quality of content on the Internet, and users may be exposed to content that is offensive, indecent, or objectionable. Users are responsible for evaluating the information found on the Internet, and it is the responsibility of parents or guardians to monitor and supervise their children's use of the Internet.

Use of Library resources for obscene, racist, illegal, or otherwise inappropriate purposes may result in suspension of privileges along with any other actions deemed appropriate, up to and including criminal charges.

St. Thomas Public Library will accept no liability in relation to material gathered, material created, damage done, or information lost as a result of accessing the Internet or using Library technology resources.

St. Thomas Public Library will not be held responsible for copyright or intellectual property infringements by users of any library equipment or technology.

St. Thomas Public Library will not be held responsible for any use of materials or information accessed through library equipment or technology.

Attempts to compromise or circumvent Library or any other network(s), internal or external will not be permitted and such use will be reported to authorities.

St. Thomas Public Library, its employees, volunteer workers, board members or anyone else affiliated with the library's operation are not responsible for any loss or damages incurred through the availability, operation, or failed operation of our Internet access.

Compliance with these rules is evaluated solely by St. Thomas Public Library.

See also: Wireless Internet Use Policy
 Creators' Community Policy
 Policy on Intellectual Freedom
 The Canadian Library Association statement on Intellectual Freedom (1985)
 The Ontario Library Association statement on Children's Rights in the Public Library (1998)

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