



## **POLICY**

### **Computers and Internet Use**

#### **Library Computers and Computer Use**

Library computers are provided to members for the purpose of accessing information and reference resources. To make these resources available to as many members as possible and to make sure that the equipment is used in a manner consistent with the Library Code of Conduct, the following rules apply:

- To allow everyone an opportunity to use the equipment, members are asked to comply with sign-in and time limitations. Computer users are allowed 180 minutes of computer access per day. No other extensions will be granted.
- Computer users may only use their personal library card or guest pass assigned to them. The use of multiple library cards for the purpose of extending computer time is strictly forbidden and may result in the loss of computer privileges.
- Guest passes will be issued to persons visiting from outside Pinellas County. Visitors must have a valid form of photo identification. Visitors are entitled to the same computer privileges as library members and must comply with all library policies and regulations.

Since the computers are located in a public area, one must assume what they view is not private. Please be considerate of other library users and refrain from displaying materials that they might reasonably consider objectionable. In accordance with Florida Statutes, Chapters 847.011(1)a and 847.0133(1), displaying obscene materials to minors or printing such materials may be a violation of the law and could result in penalties up to and including imprisonment. Misuse of library computers will result in the loss of computer privileges, potential loss of library privileges, and possible prosecution. Such misuse includes, but is not limited to:

- Damaging or altering computer equipment or software
- Downloading or installing any program on the hard drive of any computer
- Sending, displaying, or printing obscene material
- Impersonating other library members for additional time

#### **Internet Use**

The Palm Harbor Library offers Internet resources equally to all users. The Internet enables the library to provide resources not available within the confines of its own collection. However, the Internet is an unregulated medium. It offers access to a wealth of material that is personally, professionally, and culturally enriching to individuals of all ages, but it also enables access to some materials that may be offensive and/or illegal. Individual users must accept responsibility for determining the suitability of content for themselves and their children. In addition, users must respect the legal protections to data and software provided by copyright and licensing laws. Users may not represent themselves as another person nor use Internet access to transmit obscene, threatening, or harassing materials. Although library staff and volunteers can offer some assistance with internet searches and answer some questions, they cannot provide in-depth training on the internet or computer use.