

## **INTERNET POLICY**

### **VI. D. Internet Use**

The Reuben Hoar Library offers unfiltered access to the Internet. Access is offered equally to all users without charge.

In providing public access to the Internet, the library subscribes to the principles of intellectual freedom expressed in the American Library Association's LIBRARY BILL OF RIGHTS and FREEDOM TO READ statements and its interpretations of these documents. Library staff will not monitor, control, or restrict anyone's access to equipment or the range of information available within the limits of State and/or Federal law. Parents or designated guardians, who wish to limit or restrict the access of their own children, should personally oversee their use of the Internet and other forms of electronic information. Minors who visit the library without a parent or guardian are responsible for their own decisions and behaviors.

The library will not disclose, use or disseminate any personal information regarding Internet users without a court order. Users are encouraged to log out of the Internet browser as an additional privacy protection. All users are asked to respect the privacy of other users and not attempt to censor or comment upon what others are viewing.

The library does not offer electronic mail accounts, instant messaging or access to chat rooms. Users of electronic mail services do so at their own risk.

Users of library computing resources must comply with federal and state laws, library rules and policies and the terms of applicable contracts including software licenses while using library computing resources. Examples of applicable laws, rules and policies include the laws of libel, privacy, copyright, trademark, obscenity and child pornography, the Electronic Communications Privacy Act and the Computer Fraud and Abuse Act, which prohibit "hacking", "cracking" and similar activities. Users who engage in electronic communications with persons in other states or countries or on other systems or networks may also be subject to the laws of those jurisdictions and the rules and policies of those other systems and networks.

Users must not use computing resources to gain unauthorized access to local or remote computers or to impair or damage the operations of Reuben Hoar Library computers, networks, PC workstations or peripherals. This includes blocking communication line and running, installing or sharing virus programs. Attempts to circumvent data protection or other security measures are not allowed.

Misuse of the computers of Internet access will result in loss of computer privileges. Violators of computer use policies and procedures may lose library privileges. All violations will be dealt with in a serious and appropriate manner. Illegal acts involving library computing resources may also be subject to prosecution by local, state or federal authorities.

Provision of Internet service does not constitute any endorsement by the Reuben Hoar Library. The library shall have no liability for direct, indirect or consequential damages related to the use of information accessed on the Internet from library equipment.

Internet users are reminded that:

1. Not all sources on the Internet provide accurate, complete or current information.
2. Individuals are responsible for the decision to use the library's unfiltered Internet access.
3. Public library workstations are not private or secure.

Approved by Reuben Hoar Library Trustees on January 9, 2003