



# Watsonville

## PUBLIC LIBRARY

Gather, Learn & Celebrate

## Computer and Internet Use Policy

### Statement of Purpose

Watsonville Public Library provides access to and guidance for the use of a variety of informational, educational, recreational, and cultural resources for all library users.

The resources the library provides access to are both in print and non-print formats. The computers and the Internet are an integral part of the way the library retrieves information for its clients. Each individual is responsible for evaluating and determining the worth of information retrieved from any source, including the Internet. The unique, unregulated nature of the internet requires that users exercise judgement regarding information accessible on Internet sites. The library is unable to assume responsibility for quality of information accessed on the Internet.

### Access to the Internet

Every person – adult or child – using the Internet must read and agree to follow the guidelines put forth in this Computer and Internet Use Policy.

The library's workstations are in public areas. Since others may be involuntarily exposed to what is viewed, the Library asks that each user exercise good judgement and consideration of others. Please bear in mind that some materials, such as sexually graphic materials, may well be more appropriate for viewing in the privacy of your home, rather than in a public library setting. If library staff become aware of subject matter that would interfere with the maintenance of a safe, welcoming and comfortable environment for the public, the Internet user will be asked to change a screen or end their session.

Patrons are granted access to library computers and the Internet provided that they (1) have a valid Watsonville Public Library card; (2) agree to use the Internet for bona fide research or other lawful purposes; and (3) have read and indicate willingness to abide by the Internet Use Policy of the Watsonville Public Library.

Children who are 11 years old or younger must have a parent or legal guardian give written permission for them to have unrestricted access to the Internet. The library does not control the content of the Internet. Some Internet content may be controversial. The library provides access to ideas and images that some patrons may find inappropriate for children. The library is not responsible for the accidental or intentional access to such information.

Parents are ultimately responsible for monitoring their children's use of any information source and determining its suitability. The library supports the rights for each family to decide what is appropriate Internet use for their child. Use of the Internet presents an opportunity for each family to discuss sites and content they feel is appropriate or inappropriate.

For more information on children, teens, and the Internet see content on Safekids.com, SafeTeens.com, and ConnectSafely.org

## **Responsible Use Policies**

The freedom to access information is a fundamental right, but the use of library equipment is a privilege. Users shall respect the rights of other computer users, library patrons, and staff, in keeping with the library's code of conduct. This includes the use of personal devices that use the wireless capacity of the library.

### **Acceptable Use of the Computers and Internet**

- The library provides Internet access for use specifically for bona fide research and other lawful purposes.
- Time limits will be set to guarantee all patrons a chance to use the computer resources.
- Patrons are prohibited from using other patrons' library cards to access library computers.
- Individuals are responsible for using the library's computers in a responsible and courteous manner.
- Any use of the Internet that violates Federal, California or local laws is prohibited. Examples of such activities include the graphic display of obscenity, child pornography, or other materials deemed harmful to minors.
- Users may not make changes to the library's software or hardware, change configurations, or attempt to access non-public accounts or files.
- Attempts to show inappropriate materials displayed to passersby are against library policy.
- Failure to follow acceptable use policies may result in the loss of computer privileges.

### **Policy on Sexual Harassment**

The library seeks to provide an environment free from sexual harassment. Any active or repeated attempts to subject others to materials that might be considered objectionable may result in the loss of Internet privileges.