Computers and Internet

1. The library provides access to many electronic resources, including the Internet, which contains a wide variety of material and opinions from varied points of view. Many web sites contain valuable and timely information; however, other web sites may contain material that is inaccurate, defamatory, illegal or offensive to some people. The use of library computer systems is a privilege and access, in most cases, requires a valid library card.

2. The Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) requires that a library adopt an Internet safety policy that addresses five issues pertaining to minors (any person younger than 18-years-of-age). The policy must address:

- access to "inappropriate matter";
- safety and security when using e-mail, chat rooms and other forms of direct electronic communication;
- unauthorized access, including hacking and other unlawful online activities;
- unauthorized disclosure of personal identification information; and
- measures designed to restrict access to harmful materials.

3. While the NCPL attempts, through filtering software, to prevent direct access to materials that would not be generally acceptable in a public library, it is technically impossible to prevent access to all objectionable sources. Filtering software occasionally blocks acceptable sites and can be disabled by a staff member for an adult user. However, library rules and regulations as listed below still apply at all times. Be aware that any user may be monitored by library staff.

4. Filtering software will not be disabled for users who are minors. Furthermore, it is the responsibility of parents, stepparents and guardians to monitor and guide their own children in the use of the library computers and the Internet. Guidance and tips concerning Internet safety can be obtained from the staff at the circulation desk.

5. The NCPL also provides public wireless access to the Internet. Patrons must provide their own WiFi capable devices to connect to the public WiFi. Users of the NCPL WiFi are subject to the terms of this policy. A library card is not needed to use the wireless network. The library cannot guarantee the privacy or safety of data and communications while using either wired or wireless services. Patrons need to be aware that wireless networks are inherently insecure and it is strongly recommended that they secure their computers with firewall software and data encryption.

6. The NCPL makes no warranties of any kind, neither expressed nor implied, for the Internet access it is providing. The library is not responsible for the accuracy, nature, or quality of information gathered through library-provided Internet access. Patrons agree to hold the library harmless and agree to indemnify the library from any and all liability resulting from the privilege of accessing the Internet through the library.

Rules and Restrictions

7. The NCPL is required by law to set and enforce rules and regulations concerning the use of Internet Access. The Director has the authority to cancel or deny access to anyone who is identified as a security risk or violates any of the rules and regulations of this policy. The following intentional actions are considered unacceptable, and in some cases, illegal, and may result in loss of computer resource privileges, library privileges, and/or prosecution by local, state or federal authorities.

- accessing, transmitting, uploading, downloading, or distributing material or language that is pornographic, abusive, defamatory, sexually explicit, obscene, child pornography, harmful to minors, or any material that is intended to annoy, harass or alarm another person;
- engaging in any illegal activities using library computers or networks;
- vandalizing, damaging, modifying or disabling library computers, networks, software, electronic resources or any library property, including installing and/or modifying any software on library computers;
- attempting to gain unauthorized access to any computing, information, or communication devices;
- unauthorized copying of copyright or other protected material;
- intentional violation of another person's privacy;
- using another person's library card to gain Internet access;
- disrupting others' use of computer resources in any way,
- any other activities deemed unsuitable.

In addition, minors (any person younger than 18 years of age):

- shall not disclose personal identification information on the Internet.
- may be monitored by library staff.

Computer Lab & Dedicated Computers

8. Local organizations and businesses are encouraged to use the NCPL mobile computer lab for training and education purposes at any NCPL facility. Organization specific software needed for a specific class may be loaded onto the lab's laptop computers with the approval of the NCPL Computer Services Manager. Only the Computer Services Manager may add or remove such software.

9. The mobile lab will be reserved on a "first come, first served" basis. However, library programming will take priority. Lab reservations are subject to approval by the library Director. Reservations are also subject to cancellation if the lab is needed by NCPL.

10. Dedicated computers are available upon request for patron's job searching or college course needs. These computers are made available with extended time limits.