

**Martin County Library System
Internet Policy
Revised, May 2008**



1. The mission of the Martin County Library System is to be an educational, informational and recreational resource for the residents of Martin County, promoting literacy and life long learning.
2. The Martin County Library System supplies information to patrons in many different formats, from printed materials to online databases available through its online catalog, iBistro.
3. The Internet, as an information resource, enables the Library to provide additional information beyond the confines of its own collection. It allows access to ideas, information and commentary from around the globe. Currently, however, it is an unregulated medium. As such, while it offers access to a wealth of materials that is personally, professionally and culturally enriching to individuals of all ages, it also enables access to some materials that may be offensive, disturbing and/or illegal.
4. Patrons are required to sign an Internet Use Agreement. Youth 14 years of age and younger will be required to have parental or guardian permission to access the Internet. Failure to use the Internet stations appropriately and responsibly, as stated on the agreement, may result in revocation of Internet use privileges.
5. The following conduct is considered inappropriate use by patrons and will result in loss of Internet privileges:
 - The placing of unlawful information on the system.
 - The use of abusive, harassing or otherwise objectionable language in either public or private messages.
 - Viewing images depicting nude or sexual acts.
 - The sending of anything that is likely to result in damage to the recipient's databases or networks.
 - The sending of unsolicited "chain letters" or "broadcast" messages.
 - Violation of copyright or license agreements.
 - Other types of usage that would cause excessive congestion of the networks or interfere with the work of other users.
 - Using chat rooms or instant messaging programs.

Violating any of these inappropriate uses will immediately bring an end to the users current computer session. A repeat offense will result in a loss of computer use privileges for one month. If there is a further occurrence the patron will lose all computer use privileges. A patron who has lost all computer privileges may have them reinstated provided they appear before the Library Board and demonstrate that further inappropriate actions will no longer occur.

6. Library staff cannot provide in-depth training concerning Internet computer jargon or personal computer use. The staff may, however, be able to offer searching suggestions and answer some rudimentary questions. Because of library scheduling, Internet-trained staff may not always be available.

Guidelines for Internet Use at the Martin County Library System.

Patrons with valid Martin County Library System cards in good standing will have the opportunity to access the Internet at each branch of the Martin County Library.

Use of the Internet access computers is on a first-come, first-served appointment basis. A time limit of one hour **per patron per day** will be observed by Internet access at the Fairmont location. Thirty minutes per patron per day is allowed at the other Martin County branch locations. Additional time may be given to patrons using other programs such as word processing if computers are available.

No more than two persons may be seated at the same computer at one time.

Personal computer programs and games cannot be loaded on to the hard drives of the public computers. Disks with data files may be used in the computers if they are compatible with the Library's programs. Disks may be scanned for viruses before accessing files.

Failure to use the Internet computers appropriately and responsibly, as defined in the Martin County Library System Internet Policy, may result in revocation of Internet use privileges.