

## **VI. ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY: Electronic Information Resources**

**Electronic resources provide an almost unlimited scope of informational and recreational opportunities to patrons of the libraries. Access to these resources is governed by policies that ensure their widest possible legitimate use. As with print materials, both the Library Bill of Rights and the Freedom to Read statements apply and are supported.**

The Park County Library System provides resources and services to inform, to empower, to inspire and to encourage respect for individuals and ideas. In an effort to provide a broad spectrum of information resources to Library users, the Park County Library System offers Internet access on selected public terminals. This access is available equally to all users.

The Library does not monitor and has no control over the information accessed through the Internet. The Internet offers access to many valuable local, national and international sources of information. However, it is a fluid environment with the content and format of information constantly changing. Some information on the Internet may be inaccurate, incomplete, dated, or offensive to some individuals. Informed consumers must use their own critical judgment to evaluate the validity and appropriateness of information found at each Internet site visited.

As with all materials in the Library, any restriction of a child's access to the Internet is the sole responsibility of the parent, guardian, or caregiver. Parents or legal guardians should guide their children on Internet usage and inform them as to sites that are appropriate and inappropriate to access. Parents may wish to spend time online with their children to discuss information that is available and how it should be used. For more information on children and the Internet, see "A Safety Net for the Internet: A Parent's Guide" and "Child Safety on the Information Highway," both of which can be found online on the New York Public Library's home page. <http://www.nypl.org/branch/safety.html> as well as linked from the Park County Library System home page.

Specific rules for use of the public Internet stations:

- Users must comply with the legal protection provided by copyright and licensing of programs and data.
- When accessing Internet sites, consider that library users of all ages, backgrounds, and sensibilities share the public areas in which the Internet stations are located.
- Avoid accessing any material that is obscene or harmful to minors. Any activity related to child pornography is illegal.

- Infiltrating a computer or computer system and/or damaging or altering the software components of a computer or computer system is an illegal activity.
- Users should not seek information on, obtain copies of, or modify files, other data, or passwords belonging to other users. They shall not represent themselves as other users.
- Users may not install software on any Park County Library System computer or run any programs that have not been installed by the Park County Library System.

Failure to use the Internet stations in a responsible manner and in compliance with the stated rules may lead to denial of Internet access privileges at the discretion of any Park County Library System staff member.

The Library will enforce reasonable time restrictions on Internet use, in order to provide the most equitable service to all users. Patrons who need extended Internet use periods will be accommodated if time allows. When a computer is not reserved for the succeeding time slot, a Library user may continue working at the station until the next reserved time is reached. Users may sign up for a second time slot during the day, with the understanding that they may have to give it up to anyone who has not had a turn that day. Park County Library System cannot provide personalized training. As time allows, however, we will make every effort to provide assistance to users who are having difficulty at a computer station.

NOTE: Internet use policies and filtering at the Meeteetse Branch are in part governed by acceptable Internet use as articulated in codes governing schools. Unfiltered access in that library is, however, available upon request.