



TECHNOLOGY USE POLICY

The Aquinnah Public Library is committed to providing access to the Internet as a means to enhance the information and learning opportunities for the citizens of the Library's service area. The Board of Trustees has established the Technology Use Policy to ensure appropriate and effective use of this resource. The unique, unregulated nature of the Internet requires that users exercise judgment regarding information accessible on various Internet sites. The Library does not filter access to Internet sites. The Aquinnah Public Library has three workstations, and access to the Internet is available to all patrons; however, this service may be restricted at any time for use not consistent with the guidelines.

General Policy and Procedural Considerations

AVAILABILITY AND RESERVATIONS: Three Internet workstations are available at the Aquinnah Public Library. Requests for use of a computer may be made at the Circulation Desk. Computers are available for use by all patrons who visit the Library. Reservations may be made in advance by either calling or emailing the Library. Computers may be used for 30-minute intervals, and may be extended as long as another patron is not waiting.

PRINTING: Patrons may print from all workstations. The first five pages are free of charge, and additional printouts are 20 cents per page.

VALID USE: Patrons are cautioned that the Library does not make value judgments on the nature or relative importance of information accessed by computer users or the age of the user. Library staff will not entertain requests to, for example, ask a young adult or child to conclude a session of using game or cartoon related sites in deference to an adult who has to accomplish her/his work. All patrons may use their allotment of computer time in the fashion they desire, providing it does not otherwise violate library policy.

Internet Use

The Aquinnah Public Library does not monitor or exert control over information accessed through the Internet and is not responsible for the content, quality or nature of information presented. Under Chapter 151B, of the Massachusetts General Law, the library has a duty to maintain a place of public accommodation where all patrons can be free from unreasonable interference with their use and enjoyment of the Library facilities.

In accordance with Massachusetts General Law (1), the Aquinnah Library respects users' rights to confidentiality and privacy. Users are cautioned that the Internet is not a secure medium. All transactions, files and communications, including transmission of personal financial information, may be subject to access by third parties, whether legal or illegal. The Library will not release information on the use of electronic resources by members of the public, except as required by law.

The Library supports free and open access to the Internet for all Library users, and believes that this is consistent with the Library Bill of Rights, the Freedom to Read, and the Freedom to View, as stated by the American Library Association and adopted by the Library Board of Trustees.

The American Library Association's (ALA) policies oppose anything and anyone that prevents access to constitutionally protected speech in libraries. Because filtering software cannot distinguish between protected and unprotected speech, ALA opposes the use of filters in libraries. Despite the Supreme Court ruling on the Children's and Internet Protection Act (CIPA), which permits the government to require libraries receiving certain kinds of federal funding to filter Internet content, ALA does not recommend the use in libraries of filtering technology that blocks constitutionally protected information. The Trustees of the Aquinnah Public Library support the position adopted by the American Library Association that sees the use of filtering software as an abridgement of the Library Bill of Rights, and does not use filtering software on Library Internet workstations.

The Library strives to balance the rights of patrons to access all types of information resources with the rights of patrons and staff to work in a public setting free from disruptive sounds and visuals. Patrons are reminded that the Library's computer terminals are located in public areas which are shared with Library users and staff of all ages, backgrounds and sensibilities. Individuals are expected to consider this diversity and respect the sensibilities of others when accessing potentially offensive information or images. The deliberate display of obscene (2) materials or child pornography (3) is prohibited as a violation of Massachusetts General Law. (4)

The Aquinnah Library does not actively monitor and has no control over the information accessed through the Internet and cannot be held responsible for its content, authority, reliability, currency or use. Neither the Board of Trustees of the Aquinnah Library, the Library staff, nor the Town of Aquinnah is liable for any negative consequences that may occur as a result of using the Library's Internet connection.

Rules for Using Technology and the Internet

U.S. copyright law (Title 17, U.S. Code) prohibits the unauthorized reproduction or distribution of copyrighted materials, except as permitted by the principles of "fair use". Violation of copyright laws can result in severe civil and criminal penalties. When in doubt about whether or

not a use may infringe on a copyright, patrons should ask the copyright owner for permission to use or reproduce the copyrighted material. Library patrons who infringe copyrighted material may have their computer and Internet privileges suspended.

Patrons must abide by any end-user agreements or other terms and conditions required for use of downloadable media content provided by the Library. If the Library determines a patron is violating permitted uses of the content, we reserve the right to suspend or terminate Library privileges.

The Library staff is available as time permits to provide suggestions and ideas to help patrons with their searches. Because of the many different Internet applications available, the Library staff is unable to provide complete technical support.

Internet resources are for legal and legitimate uses only. Specific unacceptable uses are, but not limited to:

- Tampering with icons, bookmarks, computer hardware or software
- Degrading or disrupting equipment or system performance
- Vandalizing the data of another user
- Gaining unauthorized access to resources or entities
- Invading the privacy of individuals
- Violating Federal, State or local laws
- Harassment of other users
- Viewing content not protected by the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution (obscenity or child pornography) or displaying illegal content
- Transmission of computer viruses
- The display of materials, which Library staff determines is intended to or reasonably likely to create an intimidating, hostile or sexually offensive environment in the Library is prohibited

Use of Library Provided Technology including Wireless Access

Library users must cooperate with Library staff as requested to insure equitable computer use and a safe computing environment. Patrons are required to abide by the following guidelines for use of the Library's information technology assets. Unacceptable use may result in suspension of access privileges to the computers, exclusion from the library, and possible prosecution. Library staff may shorten any session if need demands it; or terminate a session if terminals are used inappropriately. Personal technology using the Library's wireless connection is covered by this policy. Use of the Library technology and network in a way that violates local, state or federal laws is expressly prohibited.

- All Library patrons may use a computer for one half hour per/use. Time may be extended if there is not a wait list.
- The library will charge a \$.20 per-page fee for all pages processed through printers whether or not paper is provided by the Library. The first five printouts are free of charge.
- Users may use the Internet for research and the acquisition of information to address their educational, vocational, cultural, and recreational needs.
- Users will respect and uphold copyright laws and all other applicable laws and regulations; they will not use it for illegal purposes.
- Users will respect the rights and privacy of others by not accessing private files
- Users agree not to incur any costs for the Library through their use of the Internet service.
- Users shall not create and/or distribute computer viruses over the Internet
- Users shall not deliberately or willfully cause damage to computer equipment, programs, or parameters.
- Children under 8 years of age must be in the company of an adult while using a computer. Please see Children's Use of the Internet for detailed information.

Children's Use of the Internet

The Library is aware of parental and governmental concerns about children's safety on the Internet. The Library staff does not monitor individual use of the Internet. Access to the Internet carries the potential to deliberately or accidentally access inaccurate, inappropriate, or offensive material. Therefore, parents and guardians are encouraged to take an active role in their children's use of the Internet and to talk about their personal values, expectations and rules for safe behavior when using this resource. Parents should encourage their children to speak to a staff member if they get to a website that makes them uncomfortable.

All electronic resources available through the Library are provided equally to Library users. The Library affirms the right and responsibility of parents or legal guardians to guide their children's use of all Library resources, including the Internet. As is the case with all other Library materials, any restriction of a child's access to the Internet is the responsibility of the child's parent or legal guardian. Parents, or legal guardians, not the Library or its staff, are responsible for the Internet, email, chat rooms and electronic resources information selected and/or accessed by their children.

Children under 8 years of age must be in the company of an adult while using a computer. An adult for the purpose of this policy refers to someone 18 years of age or older. The Aquinnah Library expects parents who are concerned about their children's use of electronic resources to provide guidance to their own children. Parents are responsible for their child's Internet use.

- (1) M.G.L., Chapter 78, section 7: Public Libraries - Establishment by Cities and Towns; Record
- (2) The standard for “obscenity” was set forth in Miller v. California, 413 U.S. 15 (1973)
- (3) The term “child pornography” has the meaning given such term in section 2256 of Title 18, United States Code.
- (4) MGL, Chapter 272, Section 29: Crimes Against Morality, Good Order - Dissemination or Possession of Obscene Matter; and Chapter 272, Section 31: Crimes Against Morality, Good Order - Definitions.

Adopted by the Aquinnah Library Board of Trustees 5/28/2015