BERKELEY PUBLIC LIBRARY POLICIES

SUBJECT: Internet Use Policy

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I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this administrative regulation is to set forth a policy governing the use of the Internet by patrons in any Berkeley Public Library facility, and upon which procedures for implementing this policy can be based.

II. POLICY

The Berkeley Public Library provides public access to the Internet to fulfill, in part, the Library's mission of developing resources and services that meet the cultural, informational, recreational, and educational needs of Berkeley's diverse, multicultural community, and of supporting the individual's right to know by providing free access to information. The Library adheres to the American Library Association's policy statement *Access to Electronic Information, Services, and Networks: An Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights*, which supports the right of individuals to choose library materials for themselves, including those in electronic formats. All Library computers must be used in accordance with this policy and the Berkeley Public Library Rules of Conduct.

Responsibility for Content: The Berkeley Public Library does not monitor and has no control over the information available on the Internet and cannot be held responsible for the content, accuracy, or quality of the information retrieved. Not all information available on the Internet is accurate, complete, up-to-date, lawful, or philosophically acceptable to all individuals. The Library does not limit access to sites on the Internet or censor information that some may find offensive.

The Library encourages parents and guardians to participate with their children in using Library resources and the Internet. The Library affirms the right and responsibility of a parent to determine and monitor their child's Internet access. Computers reserved for the exclusive use by children, or children with guardians, are available in children's areas of the Library.

The user is ultimately responsible for selecting which sites to visit but should be aware that Library computers are in a public area and that others may be involuntarily exposed to what is displayed. Privacy screens are installed on all Internet access computers. However, these screens do not fully prevent other library users from seeing what you are viewing. Users are asked to respect the privacy of others and adhere to the Library Rules of Conduct. Violations may result in the loss of Library privileges.

Use of Library Equipment: Illegal activities or activities that interfere with or disrupt the network, users, services, or equipment are prohibited. Use of the Library's computers for the transmission, dissemination, and/or duplication of information is regulated under various state and federal laws. The Library expects all users to comply with such laws. There are time limits on Library computer use per day; the limit may vary according to location and level of demand. Violation of these limits

in any way, including representing oneself as another person by access codes or library card number may result in loss of Library privileges.

To use an Internet access computer, a patron must have a Berkeley Public Library card in good standing. Accounts whose fines and fees exceed $100 are blocked from access to Internet computers.

Each time a patron logs onto an Internet Access computer, they must agree to the terms of use.

Reviewed by:	Director of Library Services	Date
Approved by:	Chair, Board of Library Trustees	Date