Internet Access Policy

The Mount Laurel Library is committed to providing free and open access to informational, educational, recreational and cultural resources for library users of all ages and backgrounds.

Internet access is provided to all without charge. Usage is not prioritized by information need and is not restricted by residency.

The Library does not monitor and has no control over the information accessed over the Internet and is not responsible for its content. Users are responsible for determining that the information they access is acceptable, reliable and suitable to their needs.

It is the individual user's responsibility to demonstrate judgment, respect for others, and appropriate conduct while using Public Library resources and facilities.

Providing instruction in how to use and evaluate informational resources is part of the Library's role. The Library staff is available to help identify appropriate resources and to provide assistance in their use. Staff will devote a *reasonable* amount of time assisting individual library patrons with computers when needed.

Library staff cannot monitor or control the information that children may select on the Internet. As with all Library materials, parents, guardians, and care givers are responsible for their children's use of electronic resources. Parents concerned about their children's use of electronic resources are ultimately responsible for setting standards and establishing guidelines. Parents, guardians or care givers who wish to limit or restrict the access of the children in their care should personally oversee their use. The Library recommends that parents, guardians and care givers review: "Child Safety on the Information Highway" http://www.safekids.com/child-safety-on-the-information-highway/, Rules for Online Safety (for preteens)" http://www.safekids.com/kids-rules-for-online-safety/ and Social Web Tips for Parents http://www.connectsafely.org/Safety-Tips/social-web-tips-for-parents.html which are available at the Information Desk.

The Library supports the user's right to privacy for Internet and other computer sessions, as well as with all resources and services provided by the Library, but because security is technically difficult to achieve, users are advised that electronic communications and files could become public.

The Library reserves the right to terminate an Internet session at any time.

In providing public access to Internet resources, the Mount Laurel Library subscribes to the principles of intellectual freedom defined in the American Library Association's *Bill of Rights* and *Freedom to Read* statements, copies of which are available at the Information Desk.

This policy will be reviewed periodically.

Adopted by the Board of Trustees 9/21/12