

## **Internet Usage Policy of the Arrowhead Library System**

Revised and Adopted by the Arrowhead Library Governing Board September 14, 2006.

*Adopted by the Gilbert Public Library Board October 2, 2006*

The mission of the Arrowhead Library System is to deliver highly responsive and accessible library service to its member libraries and people of the region through a collaborative network of coordinated programs.

The Arrowhead Library System provides information in a variety of formats, including print and non-print materials. The Arrowhead Library System's online automated system provides the opportunity to access electronic resources from information networks worldwide.

The Internet, as an information resource, enables the Arrowhead Library System to provide information beyond the collections of any of its member libraries. The Internet offers a variety of information that is professionally and culturally stimulating; however, the information available is constantly changing, making it impossible to predict what information is available. Individual users must accept responsibility for determining content of information found on the Internet.

The Arrowhead Library System affirms the right of each individual to have access to constitutionally protected material. Freedom of expression is an inalienable human right and the foundation of self-government. Freedom of expression encompasses the right to freedom of speech and the corollary right to receive information. The Arrowhead Library System subscribes to the American Library Association's Library Bill of Rights: "Books and other library resources should be provided for the interest, information, and enlightenment of all people of the community the library serves. Materials should not be excluded because of the origin, background, or views of those contributing to their creation." Individual users may not use the computers to display graphics that are obscene under Minnesota Statutes Section 617.241. They may not use the computers for illegal purposes. It is, also, the individual user's responsibility to demonstrate judgment, respect for others, and appropriate conduct while using Public Library resources and facilities.

The Arrowhead Library System receives federal funding in support of Internet access. Federal law requires libraries receiving such funding to install a technological device to block access to imagery defined by the Act as being harmful to minors. Federal law allows an adult to request that a CIPA-affected site be temporarily unblocked for "bona fide research or other legal purposes."

The Arrowhead Library System affirms the right and responsibility of parents to provide guidance for their own children's use of library materials and resources, including electronic resources. The American Library Association's Free Access to Libraries for Minors: an Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights, states: "Librarians and governing bodies should maintain that parents – and only parents – have the right and the responsibility to restrict the

access of their children – and only their children – to library resources.” Parents are encouraged to work closely with their children in selecting material that is consistent with personal and family values. Parents are encouraged to share with their children rules for online safety on the SafeKids website.

Not all sources on the Internet provide accurate, complete or current information. Users need to be good information consumers, questioning the validity of the information.

#### Guidelines for Use of Computers

1. Individuals may use a public workstation for a period of time (for example, thirty minutes) as specified by the Library staff.
2. Library Staff may make exceptions to time limits when demand is light or heavy. Generally, when demand is heavy, the time limit is 1 hour.
3. Users of computer workstations are expected to be alert to others who may wish to use the equipment. Individuals will lose their Library privileges if they intimidate or otherwise discourage others from exercising their right to use the computer.
4. After an individual has occupied a workstation for the time limit, he or she must relinquish the workstation.
5. Access to the Internet or to particular kinds of activity (for example, e-mail, chat rooms, game playing) may be limited or prohibited at the discretion of Library staff to allow for sufficient access to the Library’s catalog and other databases or to enable individuals doing research or writing papers to have priority of use.
6. More than one individual may use the same workstation so long as this does not disrupt others in the library. The Library’s Code of Conduct applies.
7. Users must respect copyright laws and licensing agreements.
8. There is a charge for printing. Prompt payment is required by users who incur charges for printing or other authorized fees.