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PROVIDING INTERNET INFORMATION

The Internet, as an information resource, enables the Library to provide information beyond the Library's holdings of books, serials, audio-visual materials, e-content and local databases.

In accordance with State and Federal laws, internet access from the Library's public computers and wireless network are filtered to screen out sexually explicit web sites. Internet access via a library provided wireless connection from a patron's own computer or device is also filtered.

GCPL INTERNET WEBSITE

The Library will provide to the public an Internet website which will provide remote access to its resources, information about the Library system and the community. The library does not monitor or control information accessible through the Internet and is not responsible for the content of that information.

SELECTED INTERNET INFORMATION SOURCES

The Library provides selected Internet sources based on the staff's analysis of Internet content for use by the community, consistent with the Library's Materials Selection policy (see Policy 610) and place them on the Geauga County Public Library's webpage. Selection of Internet information sources is the responsibility of the professional staff of the Library and ultimately the responsibility of the Director. Presence of a selected Internet information source on the GCPL Internet website is not an endorsement of any point of view by the Library.

General criteria for selection of Internet information sources are suitability of subject, objectivity, accuracy, authority, timeliness, and ease of use.

SELECTED INTERNET INFORMATION SOURCES

Selected Internet information sources shall be made available on the GCPL website to:
1.   Meet informational needs
2.   Facilitate informal self-education
3.   Enrich and further develop the subjects on which individuals are undertaking formal education.
4.   Support the educational, civic, and cultural activities of groups and institutions.
5.   Encourage constructive use of leisure time.

Internet information sources selected for children and young adults will provide content to enrich and to further their knowledge, often while also being entertaining.

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PUBLIC-ACCESS INTERNET COMPUTERS
Library patrons should use caution in evaluating the authority and accuracy of all Internet sources. Some Internet sources are frequently changed. The Library cannot be responsible for the accuracy of Internet sources.

As with other library materials, parents of minor children must assume responsibility for their children's use of the Internet through GCPL's connection. Parents are encouraged to supervise their children's Internet sessions.

Patrons using the public computers are encouraged to: browse, read and view. The number of patrons using a single public computer and the length of individual sessions may be restricted by an individual library. Such limits are posted. Inappropriate behavior, such as loud talking, excessive socializing or any other disruptive activity at public-access computers is prohibited (see Policy 951).

Internet materials produced primarily to trade on sensationalism or pornography may not be accessed at the Library.

In an effort to comply with the State of Ohio, Geauga County Public Library internet users may use their credit cards in order to access programs sponsored by the State of Ohio such as purchasing license plates.

The Library assumes no responsibility for any personal or private information patrons input into the Library computers or networks (such as credit card numbers, bank account transactions, passwords, etc.) Patrons should have no expectations of privacy regarding the information that is accessed and/or input through the Library's equipment.

The library is not responsible for internet/public computer sessions that are interrupted by library emergencies, power failures, computer hardware or software failures or the like. The library cannot guarantee that technical problems will not occur when using the library's network or computers.

Any Internet materials displayed on public computers that is in any way disruptive to the operation of the Library are prohibited. Library staff are authorized to either: ask a patron to immediately stop use of an individual Internet source or stop using the computer altogether. If Internet use is excessively inappropriate (or if a patron refuses to stop use after being asked to do so) a staff member may shut off the computer. Repeated violations of the Internet policy may include a 3 month suspension of Internet use privileges or up to and including a permanent suspension of Internet use privileges. (Refer to Policy 951 on Behavior & Conduct in the Library). Staff members who interact with a patron concerning inappropriate Internet use must complete an *Incident Report* (see Policy 953).

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Use of GCPL equipment or software to access child pornography or to engage in any other illegal activity, will be reported to the appropriate law enforcement agency.

REFERENCE ASSISTANCE
Library staff will provide basic assistance to the public. Some print or audio-visual materials may be more appropriate information sources than Internet materials.

PRINTERS
The Library may provide printers for public use. There is a nominal fee for printed pages.

DOWNLOADING INTERNET DATA
Patrons may download Internet software/data to their own storage devices. However, due to the computer network configuration it may not be possible to download some software/data. Internet software may not be downloaded to Library computer hard drives.

RESTRICTED COMPUTER OPERATIONS
The public shall not access nor use the operating systems software. Patrons may not load any software onto library computers. Patrons may not disassemble or modify hardware in any way. Patrons may not modify Library software in any way.

Patrons using GCPL computers may not have access to the passwords of other people or organizations without their written permission. Patrons using GCPL equipment and software may not seek unauthorized access to any computer system or damage, in any way, the programs or files of any network or database.

Patrons may not use GCPL equipment or software for any violation of copyright law.

Illegal activity involving GCPL's Internet resources will be subject to prosecution by the appropriate authorities.

No unauthorized disclosure, use or dissemination of personal identification information on minors is permitted. Such unauthorized disclosure, use or dissemination will result in a report to the federal and/or local law enforcement agencies.

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WIRELESS ACCESS

Free wireless Internet access is available at Geauga County Public Library facilities. A wireless device with 802.11 a, b, g and n (wi-fi) wireless networking is needed for access. Patrons need to check with the manufacturer or supplier of their equipment to verify that their wireless device has this functionality.

The Library's wireless Internet access is filtered. By choosing to use this free service, patrons agree to abide by the Library's Internet use policy. Patrons need to note the limitations and prohibitions of internet access and their responsibilities for using the Library's access in this Internet Policy.

The Library's wireless network is not secure. Information sent to and from patrons' wireless devices may be captured by anyone else with a wireless device and the appropriate software.

Library staff provides technical assistance by helping patron's access library services through their individual wireless devices. However, the library cannot guarantee that patrons will be able to make a wireless connection.

The Library assumes no responsibility for the safety of equipment or for wireless device configurations, security, or data files resulting from connection to the Library's wireless access.

A limited number of electrical outlets are available near seating areas, and patrons are welcome to plug in their laptops or other personal electronic devices. However, power cords and other cables may not obstruct traffic, seating or tables or otherwise cause a safety hazard.

LIBRARY OWNED WIRELESS DEVICES

Designated devices may be borrowed by adult patrons for in-library use. A valid picture identification must be left at the reference desk while the device is in use.

The library may offer other services as technology advances are made, affordable and relevant to the mission of the library.

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SOCIAL NETWORKING SOFTWARE
The library may use social networking software to facilitate communication and encourage collaboration between library staff and library patrons. The library reserves the right to monitor content before it is posted on all of its social networking software websites and accounts, and to modify or remove any messages or postings that it deems, in its sole discretion, to be abusive, defamatory, in violation of copyright, trademark right or other intellectual property right of any third party, or otherwise inappropriate for the service. The library also reserves the right to edit or modify any submissions in response to requests for feedback or other commentary. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the library is not obligated to take any such actions, and will not be responsible or liable for content posted by any subscriber in any forum, message board, or other area within the service.

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