



Internet Access

Policy # 5002

Effective Date: 12/4/2025

I. POLICY STATEMENT.

The purpose of this Internet Access Policy is to articulate the Sonoma County Library's approach to public access to the Internet, recognizing the evolving nature of information technology and the diverse needs of the community. This Policy applies to all Library users and covers the Library's provision of electronic resources and services across all its locations. It ensures equitable access while clarifying the responsibilities of users and parents or guardians.

II. DEFINITIONS.

The following definitions shall apply to this Policy, unless the use and context clearly indicates otherwise.

- A. "Director" means the Director to the Sonoma County Public Library, or designee.
- B. "Internet Access" means the ability to connect to the global network of information and services using the Library's provided hardware, software, and wireless connectivity.
- C. "Library User" means any person who uses the facilities, services, or materials provided by the Sonoma County Library.
- D. "Parent" or "Guardian" means the legal caretaker of a minor child.
- E. "Policy" means this Internet Access Policy approved by the Library Commission, and as may be amended from time to time.

III. POLICY.

- A. **Scope.** This Policy shall apply to all users of the Sonoma County Library's internet services, including both wired and wireless connections, during all hours of operation and at all branch locations. This Policy does not apply to third-party service providers or private network usage outside of the Library's systems.

- B. **Policy Standards.**

- i) Provision of Internet Access

The Library offers access to the Internet in recognition of its role as a valuable source of cultural, informational, recreational, and educational content. Internet access is made available on an equal basis to all Library users, consistent with the Library's mission to meet the needs of a diverse community.

ii) Content Disclaimer

The Library does not monitor and has no control over the information accessed through the Internet and cannot be held responsible for its content. As a global network with a highly diverse user base, the Internet includes content that may be inaccurate, incomplete, or objectionable. Patrons access the Internet at their own discretion.

iii) Parental Responsibility

Parents or guardians, not Library staff, are responsible for the information accessed by their children through the Internet. Only parents may restrict their children's access to Library-provided Internet resources. Parents and guardians are strongly encouraged to supervise their children's Internet sessions.

iv) No Censorship

The Library does not censor or limit access to Internet materials. Beyond the Library's website and the included resources, It does not select or curate online content but merely provides access. As such, Library staff are not responsible for verifying the accuracy, completeness, or currency of any Internet sources.

C. Administrative Procedures.

- i) Users must comply with the Library's general Safe Library Use Policy and may be required to agree to terms of service before accessing the Internet.
- ii) Violations of this Policy or misuse of Library technology may result in the loss of Internet privileges or Library access, subject to the Library's Safe Library Use Policy.

D. Library Director Authority. The Library Director, or designee, is expressly authorized to make minor amendments to this Policy, including, but not limited to, imposing additional policies or procedures that are deemed necessary for the efficient and safe functioning of the Library, so long as in line with the purpose of this Policy.

IV. APPLICABLE LAW AND REGULATIONS.

A. Library Bill of Rights adopted by the American Library Association.

V. REVISION HISTORY.

[Update the following information below, starting with the date the Policy is first approved by the Library Commission.]

Policy #: 5001

Effective Date: TBD

Significant Changes: Reformatted to new policy template, clarified language in policy statement

Policy #: 5001

Effective Date: 7/26/2000

Significant Changes: Policy reaffirmed by the Library Commission

Policy #: 5001

Effective Date: 2/7/1996

Significant Changes: New policy adopted by the Library Commission