Internet Use Policy for Elizabeth B Pert Library Hector, NY

Policy Statement

The Elizabeth B Pert Library provides internet access to support the educational, informational, and recreational needs of the community. This service is available to all library patrons in a safe, respectful, and responsible manner. The library encourages the use of the internet to enhance learning and foster access to a wide range of information, while ensuring that it is used in compliance with legal, ethical, and safety standards.

Regulation

1. **Access and Eligibility**:
   (1) Internet access is available to all library patrons during library hours.
   (2) Patrons must comply with all applicable library rules and regulations when using library computers or internet access.
   (3) Children and minors must have permission from a parent or guardian to use the internet. The library encourages parents to monitor their children's internet activity while in the library.
2. **Acceptable Use**:
   (1) The internet is provided for lawful, educational, and recreational purposes. Patrons are prohibited from using the internet for any illegal activity, including but not limited to:
      o Downloading or distributing copyrighted materials without permission
      o Accessing or distributing illegal, offensive, or harmful content
      o Harassing, bullying, threatening, or engaging in harmful activities toward other users
      (2) Users should respect the privacy of others by not attempting to access or interfere with personal data on other users' devices or accounts.
      (3) Patrons should refrain from using the internet to engage in commercial activities, such as advertising, soliciting, or selling products and services.
3. **Network Security**:
   (1) The library's internet service is provided to users "as is," and users are responsible for ensuring the security of their own personal data while using public computers.
   (2) The library is not responsible for any loss of data, viruses, or other malicious software that may affect personal devices or library computers during internet use.
   (3) Patrons must not attempt to tamper with, damage, or disrupt the library's computer systems or network. Any activity that interferes with the operation of the library's network or resources will result in immediate suspension of internet privileges.
4. **Time Limits and Priority**:
   (1) To ensure fair access, patrons may be limited to a specific amount of time for internet use, depending on demand.
   (2) If other patrons are waiting, users may be asked to limit their session or vacate the computer to accommodate additional users.

(3) The library reserves the right to set time limits on individual sessions to maximize access for all patrons.
5. **Staff Assistance**:
(1) Library staff will assist patrons with basic internet navigation and computer usage.
(2) Library staff are not available to provide extensive technical support, such as troubleshooting personal devices or software issues.
(3) Staff may monitor computer usage to ensure compliance with this policy and to aid as needed.

Procedure

1. **Accessing Internet**:
(1) Patrons must sign in at the front desk or use the self-service station to access the library's internet service.
(2) Each patron is entitled to one session per day, unless no other users are waiting for a computer.
(3) The library may require users to enter their library card number or sign a user agreement form to access internet services.
2. **Monitoring Usage**:
(1) Library staff may monitor computer usage to ensure that patrons adhere to the policy.
(2) Any patrons who violate the internet use policy may be asked to cease using the internet immediately or may have their access temporarily or permanently suspended.
(3) Users who engage in illegal activity or violate the library's rules may be subject to law enforcement involvement.
(4) Use of the library's internet is intended for educational, informational, and recreational purposes; accessing pornographic, sexually explicit, violent, or otherwise inappropriate or illegal content is strictly prohibited and may result in loss of access privileges or further action in accordance with library policies and applicable laws.

3. **Maintaining Equipment**:
(1) Users should report any technical issues with the computers or internet access to library staff immediately.
(2) Users are responsible for ensuring that they do not damage equipment during their use. Any damages will be assessed, and users may be held financially responsible for repairs or replacement.
4. **Printing and Downloading**:
(1) Patrons may print documents from the internet for a fee, as determined by the library's printing policy.
(2) The library is not responsible for any content downloaded by patrons from the internet, and all downloads should be performed at the patron's own risk.

Guideline

1. **User Responsibility**:
    (1) Patrons should be mindful of the time they spend using internet resources, especially when others are waiting.
    (2) Users are encouraged to practice good cybersecurity habits, such as logging out of accounts and avoiding saving sensitive personal information on library computers.
    (3) Users should be respectful of others in the library by keeping noise levels low and using headphones if listening to audio or video content.
2. **Parental Guidance**:
    (1) The library suggests that parents and guardians take an active role in guiding their children's internet usage. The library offers access to filtered browsing options, but it is ultimately the responsibility of parents to determine what content is appropriate for their children.
    (2) The library provides resources for parents to educate their children about online safety and responsible internet use.

This policy ensures that internet access at Elizabeth B Pert Library remains safe, fair, and accessible for all users while promoting responsible and ethical online behavior.