

### XIII. ACCESS TO INTERNET RESOURCES

Sandusky Library offers access to information resources on the Internet in response to advances in technology and to the changing information needs of the community. Internet access is one component of the Library's objective to acquire, organize, and preserve materials which advance human knowledge and stimulate ideas, and to provide free access to these materials to all individuals and groups in the community for purposes of education, information, research, or the creative use of leisure time. The Library has no control over the information accessed over the Internet and is not responsible for its content. Sandusky Library assumes no responsibility for any damages, direct or indirect, arising from use of its World Wide Web site or from its connections to other Internet services. Users are hereby notified that they are responsible for the access points they reach.

#### CHILDREN'S INTERNET PROTECTION ACT (CIPA)

Sandusky Library complies with the Federal Children's Internet Protection Act which mandates that access to the Internet be filtered for the protection of those under the age of 17. All Library PCs are filtered. For patrons ages 17 or older, the Library will remove the filtering software for 45 minutes upon request for their personal use as long as the patron is also in compliance with the Library's Internet policy and patron responsibility policy.

Parents or guardians of minor children are responsible for their children's use of and exposure to the Internet. While patrons are free to access whatever Internet sites they wish, the Library is obligated to comply with federal and state laws regarding the prevention of exposure to certain explicit images and materials. Therefore, staff members will request that a patron remove such an image or text from an Internet workstation screen if, in the staff member's judgment, the image or text is displayed in such a way that other patrons, particularly children, are exposed to or cannot reasonably avoid viewing it. Patrons must refrain from displaying profanity, sexually explicit graphics or other sites that violate community standards as set forth in the U.S. Code Sec. 1460 of Title 18 and U.S. Code Sec. 2256 of Title 18. Library staff encourages parents to work with their children to develop acceptable rules for Internet use. Library staff encourages parents and children to read *Child Safety on the Information Highway*, jointly produced by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children and the Interactive Services Association. This publication is available in Children's Services.

Efforts to bypass the security of the Library network or any other computer network connected with the Library is strictly prohibited. The Library will assist in investigations of individuals who hack at any computer via the Library's network.

## OTHER REGULATIONS

- \* Under no circumstances may patrons use their personal software on Library computers.

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- \* Sandusky Library allows downloading and saving from the Internet only on removable media.
- \* Library staff will devote a reasonable amount of time assisting individual library users with the computer and Internet where needed. Library staff may be able to offer searching suggestions and answer some questions. Staff can help patrons start a program, save a program, and print a document. They cannot devote large amounts of time to each patron because staff scheduled on the floor are handling many information requests from many individuals. Library patrons are expected to be familiar with basic computer operation. The Library provides classes at no charge and provides manuals and documentation.
- \* If users experience any problems with the computer or programs, they should notify Library staff immediately.
- \* Illegal activity involving the Library'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
- \* Users agree to comply with United States Copyright Law and all other applicable laws.
- \* Users shall not use the Internet for the transmission of threatening or harassing materials.