



## **BETHEL PUBLIC LIBRARY**

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[www.bethellibrary.org](http://www.bethellibrary.org)

### **POLICY ON PUBLIC INTERNET ACCESS**

#### **SECTION 1: ACCESS TO INTERNET RESOURCES**

The Bethel Public Library provides its users with access to the Internet as part of its ongoing commitment to make information available through a variety of formats and from a variety of sources. The Internet, as an information resource, enables the Library to provide information beyond the confines of its own collection.

The Internet is a global and unregulated information network. It is filled with resources that can educate, inform, and entertain. However, access to material of a controversial or mature nature, as well as to material that is not accurate, complete, or current, is unavoidable. The Library cannot control the information available through the Internet and does not accept responsibility for its quality, accuracy, or currency. The Library advises users to exercise judgment when evaluating the usefulness and reliability of material found on the Internet.

The Bethel Public Library provides unfiltered access to the Internet. As with all Library materials, restriction of a child's access to the Internet is the responsibility of his or her parents or legal guardians. The Library staff cannot and does not act *in loco parentis*. Library staff is available to provide assistance and help to identify appropriate sites. Parents or guardians are encouraged to read the brochure "Children and the Internet" Using it Safely, Using it Wisely available free in the Children's Library.

#### **SECTION 2: CONFIDENTIALITY**

The Bethel Public Library strives to preserve confidentiality and privacy for all Library users. However, absolute privacy for patrons using electronic resources in the Library cannot be guaranteed. All users are asked to respect the privacy of other users and not attempt to censor or comment on what others are viewing.

#### **SECTION 3: RESPONSIBILITIES OF USERS**

The Library's computers may be used only for lawful purposes. Unacceptable uses include, but are not limited to: accessing material that is obscene, pornographic, or "harmful to minors" (consistent with state laws and/or local standards); harassing, libeling or slandering others; destruction of or damage to equipment, software or hardware; disruption or unauthorized monitoring of electronic communications; or unauthorized copying of copyright-protected

