POLICY
FOR FIBERCONNECT LIBRARIES
USING THE STATE OF VERMONT WIDE AREA NETWORK (WAN)
FOR INTERNET AND WIRELESS ACCESS

This policy covers both Internet Use and Public Wireless and is designed for use by the FiberConnect libraries receiving internet service from the State of Vermont.

The policy is "universal" so that it can be applied at the central State WAN Wireless Controller and used by all libraries in the Vermont FiberConnect project.

Because this policy is designed to be "universal" it may not include all aspects of policy desired by an individual library. The Department of Libraries recommends that libraries formally adopt their own Internet use and wireless policies separate from this policy. The Department of Libraries has sample policies and policy templates available at: http://libraries.vermont.gov/publiclibrarypolicies.

LIBRARY NETWORK USE POLICY

By choosing to use library computers, Internet access or public wireless service, patrons of this public library agree to abide by this Network Use Policy which prohibits abusive or illegal activity while using the Library's Internet or wireless service.

I. INTERNET USE

A. Introduction
As part of its mission to provide a wide range of information resources to its users, this Library provides computers with access to the Internet, including through its public wireless network.

B. Internet Access
The Internet, an essential medium for obtaining and transmitting valuable information of all types, is unregulated and offers access to information that is inaccurate, biased, illegal, or that may be offensive or disturbing to some users.

C. Responsibilities of Library Staff and User
Library staff will not monitor a user's Internet use, except for time limits in order to ensure equal opportunity of access for everyone. The user, or the parent/guardian of a minor, is responsible for his or her Internet activity (or that of his/her minor child) at all times. The Library will not monitor network traffic except as is necessary to diagnose and troubleshoot network performance.

The Library reserves the right to terminate an Internet session that disrupts library services or in the event that a user violates Library policy.

The Library affirms the right and responsibility of parents/guardians, not the Library, to determine and monitor their minor children's use of the Internet. Parents who believe that their children cannot responsibly use the Library's Internet access are requested to monitor their children's Internet use.

D. Disclaimer
The Library strives to provide access to information of the highest quality; however, the Library specifically disclaims any warrant as to the accuracy, timeliness, authoritativeness, or usefulness of content located via the Internet.

The Library will have no liability for direct, indirect or consequential damages related to the use of information accessed through the Library's Internet service.

E. Unacceptable Uses of Library Computers
Examples of inappropriate use include, but are not limited to, the following:
   a. Violation of computer system integrity;
   b. Unauthorized tampering with computer hardware or software;
   c. Violation of software license agreements or copyright laws;
   d. Conducting illegal activity of any kind;
   e. Violation of another user's privacy;
   f. Compromising the safety and security of others or the property of others.

Illegal acts involving Library computing resources may also be subject to prosecution by local, state or federal authorities.

F. Response to Violations
Failure to comply with this policy and related library procedures may result in the suspension of access to library computers or to Internet service in the library.

II. WIRELESS ACCESS

This service is free of charge and subject to the terms of the Library's Internet Use Policy and terms and conditions of use as follows:

A. LIMITATIONS AND DISCLAIMERS

1) Wireless access is provided as a public service free of charge on an as-is basis with no guarantee and no warranty. The Library's wireless network is subject to periodic maintenance and unforeseen downtime.

2) There are risks involved with connecting to a public wireless connection, such as possible viruses, malware, loss of data, possible hacking/snooping by others connected, and possible hardware/software failure. It is the user's responsibility to protect his/her information from all risks associated with using the Internet, including any damage, loss, or theft that may occur as a result of using the Library's wireless access.

3) All Library Wi-Fi users should have up-to-date antivirus software installed on their computers/devices.

4) The laptop computer/device owner is responsible for setting up his/her own equipment to access the Library's wireless network. Library staff may be restricted by local policy in handling patron laptops, devices or peripheral equipment and may be limited by local policy to provide no more than general assistance in helping patrons to connect to the wireless network. Ask a Library staff member for details.

5) The Library assumes no responsibility for the safety of equipment; users must keep their equipment with them at all times.

6) In using this free Internet access, users agree and hereby release, indemnify, and hold harmless, this Library, its officers and employees, and any affiliate, from any damage that may result from a patron's use of the Library's wireless access. While using this wireless access, users acknowledge that they are subject to, and agree to abide by all laws, and all rules and regulations of the local municipality, the State of Vermont, and the federal government that is applicable to Internet use.

7) At its sole discretion, the Library may terminate this public service at anytime without prior notice.

8) Printing may be available via the wireless connection. Library staff can provide information about printing options.

9) Any attempt to circumvent library procedures or any unauthorized attempt to access or manipulate library equipment may result in suspension of use of the Library's Wi-Fi network.