



Internet Access

Policy Objective

Vancouver Island Regional Library (VIRL) recognizes the value of the Internet as a resource for library users and is pleased to provide access as a service.

The purpose of this policy is to identify the terms under which this service is offered, as well as the user's responsibilities when using this service.

VIRL considers Internet information resources to be an extension of our collections and one of the richest information resources available to the public.

However, caution should be exercised, as the Internet is an unregulated, worldwide environment. It contains information and opinions that range in scope from reliable and authoritative to controversial or extremely offensive. Some information found on the Internet may NOT be accurate, complete or current. Users must assess for themselves the validity of the information found. Users should also be aware that the Internet is not a secure medium and that third parties may be able to obtain information about users' activities.

VIRL will provide public access to the Internet at all service points where workstations can be monitored by staff for assistance and security. However, parents and guardians are solely responsible for their child's Internet activity, whether or not the child has a library card. When signing for a child's library card, a parent or guardian assumes responsibility for their child's access to all resources in the library including electronic resources such as the Internet.

VIRL library users will be made aware of the Internet Access Policy through signage, brochures and through on-line acceptance of this policy prior to access to the Internet. Internet users must be aware that Internet workstations are in public areas, shared by people of all ages and sensibilities. Internet users must be aware that Internet workstations are in public areas where online activity may be visible to other library users and they are shared by people of all ages and sensibilities. Accordingly, all library users are expected to be respectful in their use of VIRL's internet resources and to refrain from any conduct or display any materials that interferes with the use or enjoyment of the library by other users or staff.

Acceptable Use

VIRL does not permit any use of its internet resources where contrary to applicable laws or where such use interferes with the use or enjoyment by the library by staff or other patrons.

Any activity which interferes with or disrupts use by others, or constitutes any attempt to damage or alter equipment, software or configurations is prohibited and may result in the suspension of library privileges. Individuals who use VIRL's Internet workstations for illegal purposes will be subject to prosecution.

VIRL does not permit the use of its internet resources to facilitate the commission of any crime or the victimization of any person. VIRL internet resources may not be used to threaten, intimidate or bully. Individuals who use VIRL's Internet workstations for illegal purposes may be subject to prosecution and the revocation of privileges.

While VIRL respects principles of intellectual freedom and does not actively monitor the online activity of its patrons, VIRL has responsibilities to provide to staff and patrons a respectful and harassment/discrimination free environment. Accordingly, VIRL reserves the right to request at any time that a user refrain from any display of images or materials on its computer terminals that are offensive, discriminatory, sexually explicit or contain scenes of graphic violence or the display of any other materials that may contribute to discrimination or the display of which unreasonably interferes with the reasonable use and enjoyment of the library by others.

Internet users must in their use of VIRL's computer and internet resources:

- act in compliance with applicable laws;
- respect and comply with the legal protection provided by copyright and licensing of programs;
- refrain from usage to access, display, create, or disseminate materials prohibited by law (e.g. child pornography, hate crimes);
- refrain from use which violates the privacy of another Internet user or library user;
- refrain from any installation of software or run any programs on VIRL workstations, except as approved by staff;
- attempt to obtain information about, obtain copies of or modify files, other data, or passwords belonging to other users;
- accept total responsibility for any and all consequences of receiving or providing information to third parties on the Internet; and
- comply with all requests made by staff to refrain from the display of offensive or discriminatory materials.

Risk

VIRL provides access to its resources on an as is basis, and all use by users is at the user's own risk. VIRL provides no representations or warranties to users about the availability or connectivity of its systems or the security, confidentiality or privacy of any data of information that users may access, transfer or create through library computers or terminals.

It is recommended that users not use VIRL's systems to engage in financial transactions or the collection, use or disclosure of information of a sensitive nature. Users who do so proceed at their own risk. VIRL accepts no responsibility for the security or privacy of any on-line transactions by users. VIRL is not responsible for any fees incurred by use of the Internet.

Library users should be aware that their use of VIRL internet resources is subject to federal and provincial laws regulating internet use, including provisions in the *Criminal Code of Canada* regarding child pornography, obscenity and the incitement of hate. The use, copying, distribution or modification of material found on the internet may also infringe on copyright and other intellectual property rights of third parties. VIRL assumes no responsibility for the illegal use of its internet resources by users or for any copyright or intellectual property infringements carried out by users.

Finally, some information provided by users through the use of library internet services may be captured by VIRL's electronic systems and may constitute personal information within the meaning of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (FIPPA). Although VIRL does not routinely seek to identify users from their online activity, it may in appropriate circumstances access available data about a user's online activity as permitted by FIPPA and for the purposes of ensuring the security and integrity of its systems, to address breaches of this policy, and to cooperative with ongoing law enforcement investigations. For more information about VIRL's personal information protection policies please see out Personal Information Privacy Policy.

Questions regarding this policy can be directed to: privacy@virl.bc.ca

This policy may be updated from time to time.

Adoption History

ADOPTED BY:	DATE:
VIRL Board of Trustees	June 2009
VIRL Board of Trustees	November 25, 2017
DATE OF NEXT REVIEW: 2022	REVIEW CYCLE: 5 years