



Internet and Computing Access

Policy Objective

Access to the internet and computing are basic needs for daily life. Recognizing that many residents do not have access to the internet or adequate computing resources, Vancouver Island Regional Library (VIRL) provides internet access and access to a range of technologies as a library service, enabling learning, access to information, expression, connection, and engagement.

The purpose of this policy is to identify the terms under which internet and computing services are offered, as well as the user's responsibilities when using these services.

This policy applies to internet access and use of VIRL computing resources only. VIRL's Integrated Library System and Digital Collections offerings are not in scope of this policy.

Internet Access

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

- Internet access is provided free of cost through library computers and by WiFi
- In keeping with VIRL's values of Intellectual Freedom and Privacy, VIRL does not filter content or monitor individual use of the internet.
- Parents and guardians are solely responsible for their child's use of internet and computing resources.
- Users may connect to VIRL WiFi outside of library hours, where available. This policy and VIRL's Code of Conduct apply.

Computing

VIRL provides free access to computing technology. This includes:

- Public computers for everyday use
- Specialized technologies which support accessibility, and which enable library users to learn about technology, experiment, create, and access tools which would otherwise be unavailable to them.

Terms of Use

Use of VIRL internet, WiFi or computing resources is encouraged, except where contrary to applicable laws or where such use interferes with the use or enjoyment by the library by staff or other patrons. Libraries are shared by people of all ages, backgrounds, and sensibilities. People are asked to consider others when accessing content and using computing resources.

Users of VIRL's internet and computing resources are expected to:

- act in compliance with applicable laws, and
- comply with all requests made by staff

Vancouver Island Regional Library
Board Policy
Internet and Computing Access

The following are not permitted:

- Access, display, creation, or dissemination of materials prohibited by law
- Use of VIRL internet or computing resources to threaten, intimidate or bully
- Violating the privacy of another person
- Making any attempt to damage or disrupt service on the Library's computer networks.
- Attempting to obtain information about, obtain copies of or modify files, other data, or passwords belonging to other users;
- Running network sniffer software, operating wireless access points or utilizing any other means to intentionally intercept other users' data.
- Moving, unplugging or altering any VIRL equipment

Failure to comply with these Terms of Use may result in the suspension of library privileges. Use of VIRL's internet or computing resources for illegal purposes may result in prosecution.

Risk

VIRL provides access to its resources on an as is basis, and all use 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 or information that users may access, transfer or create through library computers or VIRL networks.

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. VIRL is not responsible for any damage or loss caused to client hardware or software due to power surges or theft.

Use of VIRL internet and computing resources is subject to federal and provincial laws, including provisions in the *Criminal Code of Canada* regarding child pornography, obscenity and the incitement of hate, *Canadian Anti-Spam Legislation*, and the *Copyright Act*. VIRL assumes no responsibility for the use of its internet and computing resources by users or for any copyright or intellectual property infringements carried out by users.

Data Collection

VIRL tracks computer, WiFi and network usage, only to ensure network and infrastructure security, adequate resourcing and to measure the impact and effectiveness of our services. VIRL does not:

- Retain records of search histories unnecessarily
- Allow Third Parties to access logs or records, except under explicit Subpoena by the relevant authority

Adoption History

ADOPTED BY:		DATE:	
VIRL Board of Trustees		June 2009	
VIRL Board of Trustees		November 2017	
VIRL Board of Trustees		September 2023	
DATE OF NEXT REVIEW: 2028		REVIEW CYCLE:	5 years