



**Wharton Public Library**  
**15 South Main Street**  
**Wharton, New Jersey 07885**  
**Phone: (973) 361-1333**  
[www.whartonlibrary.org](http://www.whartonlibrary.org)

## **POLICY I-101: INTERNET POLICY**

In response to advances in technology and the changing needs of the community, the Wharton Public Library endeavors to develop collections, resources, and services that meet the cultural, informational, recreational, and educational needs of Wharton's diverse community.

The Library provides open public access to information of all types in a wide range of formats for all users. Unlike other library resources, the information and sources on the Internet are not subject to the selection policies of the library. In offering Internet access, the library staff cannot control access points that often change rapidly and unpredictably. While the Internet and its available resources contain a wide variety of material and opinions from varied points of view, not all sites on the global Internet provide accurate, complete, or current information. Users are hereby notified that they are responsible for the access points they reach.

As with other library materials, restriction of a child's access to the Internet is the responsibility of the parent/legal guardian. Parents of minor children, NOT the library staff, are responsible for the information selected or accessed by their children through the library's Internet connection. *Parents are encouraged to come in with their children and supervise their child's Internet sessions at the library.*

Viewing of certain materials in the public library and other uses of the Internet may be considered improper in time, place or manner. If patron behavior when using Internet resources becomes inappropriate for a library setting, the library reserves the right to end the session. Violation of the policies and regulations that govern the use of the Library's Internet resources may result in suspension or loss of the privilege to use these resources. Illegal activity involving the Library's Internet resources will be subject to prosecution by the appropriate authorities.

Library patrons' use of the facility and equipment for access to the Internet will be managed to allow the greatest use by the greatest number of people.

E-mail accounts will not be provided. Access to chat rooms, Instant Messaging and games played at multiple stations will be discouraged.

The Library Staff will assist users to begin an Internet search, however, the Library cannot guarantee that Internet-trained staff will be available to assist users at all times. Staff is not able to offer extensive explanations or to provide in-depth training. The staff will try to answer specific questions and offer suggestions for effective searching strategies. Information will be provided about Internet training opportunities and Internet books and materials.

The Library assumes no responsibility for any damages, direct or indirect, arising from its connections to the Internet.

*On June 26, 1997 the Supreme Court issued a sweeping re-affirmation of core First Amendment principles and held that communications over the Internet deserve the highest level of Constitutional protections. For Libraries the most critical holding of the Supreme Court is that Libraries that make content available on the Internet can continue to do so with the Constitutional protection that apply to the book collection.*