

## Porter Memorial Library

### Internet Policy

**Introduction to the Internet:** While traditional print collections provide stability and the opportunity to compare and verify authenticity, the Internet is characterized by constant change and unpredictability. Its great strength is wealth of information. It offers a wide variety of materials on all topics, from many points of view. While its resources may be useful and enriching, they also may be outdated, inaccurate, illegal, and even offensive and disturbing to some individuals. With the Internet, the library opens a gateway to information far broader than that found in our library's collections that have been carefully selected and developed with our users' needs in mind.

**Use of the Internet:** The Porter Memorial Library does not monitor or exert control over information accessed through the Internet and is not responsible for its content. Parents or legal guardians must assume the responsibility for their children's use of the Internet through the library's connection. Restriction of a child's access to the Internet is the responsibility of the parent/legal guardian. Parents are encouraged to discuss Internet use with their children and make clear their expectations. Patrons may not use library terminals to access the Internet for illegal purposes, to transmit threatening or harassing materials or to deliberately display obscene\* images. Patrons may be asked to limit their time on the Internet when others are waiting to use the equipment. The penalty for violating the library's Internet Policy will result in loss of access to the library computer for 3 months for first offense. Everyone must register for Internet use by providing their name, address, library card number, and telephone number.

**Assistance:** Library staff is available to assist you in your use of Internet resources, but may not be familiar with every application you might wish to use. Because of the many different Internet applications and plug-ins available, the library is unable to provide complete technical support.

(\*MGL, Chapter 272, Section 29; Crimes Against Morality, Good Order-Dissemination or Possession of Obscene Matter; and Chapter 272, Section 31: Crimes Against Morality, Good Order – Definitions.)