

## Internet Policy

The Board of Trustees of the Bayport-Blue Point Public Library recognizes that computers and the Internet are essential research and educational tools. The Library, therefore, offers Internet access as an extension of the Library's reference and research functions. Patrons should be aware however, that information on the Internet might be inaccurate, incomplete, dated or offensive to some individuals.

The Board strongly recommends that patrons evaluate the validity and appropriateness of information obtained via the Internet. In an effort to assist its users, the Library provides training to help the public in using the Internet in a safe, effective and efficient manner. The Board of Trustees recognizes the rights of parents/guardians to decide which library resources are appropriate for their minor children. Accordingly, the Bayport-Blue Point Public Library urges minors and their parents or guardians to keep in mind the following safety guidelines:

- never give out identifying information such as home address, school name, or telephone number
- let parents or guardians decide whether personal information such as age, marital status, or financial information should be revealed
- never arrange a face-to-face meeting with someone via the computer without a parent's or guardian's approval
- never respond to messages that are suggestive, obscene, threatening, or make one uncomfortable and tell a parent or guardian if you receive such a message
- have parents or guardians report an incident to the Library and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children at 1-800-843-5678 if one becomes aware of the transmission of child pornography
- remember that people online may not be who they say they are
- remember that not everything one reads is true

Patrons are responsible at all times for using the Internet appropriately. The Board expects parents/guardians to supervise their children's Internet sessions to ensure appropriate and safe access. Use of the Internet for unlawful purposes including, but not limited to, the production or distribution of threatening material; expressions of bigotry, racism or hate; cyber-bullying; obscene or sexually explicit material; and material protected by trade secret is prohibited. The harassment of other Internet users is also prohibited. The New York State Legislature (in enacting New York's obscenity laws) and numerous courts (in interpreting such laws), have recognized the existence of community standards when defining obscene or sexually offensive materials. The Board of Trustees seeks to place reasonable restraints on the public display or distribution of certain materials that lack literary, artistic, political or scientific value.

The Bayport-Blue Point Public Library fully complies with the provisions of the Children's Internet Protection Act. The Library utilizes filtering technologies. Bayport-Blue Point Public Library is guided by the following American Library Association statements on access to information: *The Library Bill of Rights, The Freedom to Read, and Access to Electronic Information, Services and Networks: an interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights.*

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