Port Orford Public Library District
Computer and Internet Access and Use Policy
(effective 8/13/12, adopted by the Board, revised 5/16/2013, adopted by the Board)

Statement of Internet Access:
The Port Orford Public Library District is committed to providing free and open access to information, educational, recreational, and cultural resources for library users of all ages and backgrounds. It is also Library policy to protect the rights of intellectual property creators and owners. The District's computer system provides an opportunity to integrate electronic resources from information networks around the world with the District's other resources. Illegal downloading is prohibited.

Library Responsibility:
In offering global computer network access, the District has no local control over access points, which change rapidly and often unpredictably. The District also has no control over the subject matter added daily to the Internet and cannot have complete knowledge of what is on the Internet. Congress and the courts have recognized that there is no single organization to govern, control or select information for the Internet. Because of this freedom of information, the breadth of information on the Internet, the unstructured and unregulated nature of the Internet, and the unreliable state of filtering, the Port Orford Public Library District cannot control the content of resources available.

Access:
As with other library resources, providing access to electronic information does not imply sponsorship or endorsement by the District. The District does not select the material on the Internet and has no means or statutory authority to assure that only constitutionally protected material is available on the Internet. Because the Library does participate in the E-Rate program the library does employ hardware and software to limit websites that fall under the general restrictions of the Children's Internet Protection Act.

Confidentiality:
The library seeks to protect the First Amendment rights of its patrons and their individual right to privacy. However, Internet users must be sensitive to the fact that workstations are in public areas and, therefore, images on the screen are subject to view by a wide audience, including minors. Patrons are urged to use good judgment and discretion about what is accessed via these public computers. Library personnel have the right to terminate any session involving the display of sexually explicit images, and or those depicting explicit images of children, or any image deemed inappropriate for viewing in the public library.

User Responsibilities:
While the Internet offers a wealth of material that is personally, professionally, and culturally enriching, it also has materials that may be offensive, unlawful, or inaccurate. The use of Internet resources carries with it a responsibility to evaluate the quality of the information accessed. Therefore, library patrons use it at their own risk. Some commercial databases on the Internet require a fee. These fees are the responsibility of the patron; they are not the responsibility of the library. For the patron's safety, minors and others are encouraged not to provide personal information of any kind to strangers, in person, or on the Internet.

      Minors: The library, unlike schools, does not serve in loco parentis (in place of a parent). Librarians cannot act in the place of parents in providing constant care and supervision of children as they explore the Internet. The responsibility for what minors read or view on the Internet rests with parents or guardians. We strongly urge parents and guardians to monitor and set guidelines for their children's Internet use. Child Safety On The Information Highway, a handout to assist you in this effort, is available at Port Orford Public Library. Children under the age of 7 may use an Internet

terminal only when a parent/guardian or an adult sibling (over 16) sits with them and supervises. It is against the law for minors to use the Internet for lewd or pornographic materials. We will not permit any such use and reserve the right to be the judge of what we consider lewd or pornographic. Because the patron is the selector in using the Internet by making individual choices and decisions, patrons shall comply with all age restrictions governing access to specific sites, as limited by the content provider, to usage by persons 21 years of age or older.

Misuse: Misuse of our computers will result in the loss of computer privileges, potential loss of library privileges, and possible prosecution. Such misuse includes, but is not limited to: using the computer system for unlawful activities (in violation of federal, state or local laws); altering or attempting to alter settings of the library's computers; hacking into the library computer system or any other computer system; damaging or attempting to damage equipment or software; interfering with system operations, integrity or security; gaining unauthorized access to the library computer system or another person's files; sending harassing messages to other computer users; spamming (sending copies of unsolicited e-mail and/or general cross-posting to news groups); violating copyright laws and software licensing agreements; or accessing, disseminating or printing child pornography or illegal obscene materials. Users are responsible for complying with this policy as a condition of using the library. If a computer user is caught acting in violation of this policy, the library staff on duty are authorized to interrupt and terminate the session.

Patron-Owned Devices: The library cannot assume responsibility for patron-owned devices (for example, laptops, e-readers, or smartphones) that are not working or for fixing devices. Library staff and volunteers are not trained to be able to solve computer problems. Patrons who ask library staff or volunteers for assistance with their devices, do so at their own risk.