

**Subject:** Internet Use

**Application:** Employees, customers, consultants, contractors, vendors and visitors

Westchester Library System (WLS) and its member public libraries endeavor to develop services that meet the cultural, informational, educational, and recreational needs of Westchester County's diverse, multicultural community by providing access to Internet resources that offer many valuable local, national and international sources of information. Information and resources on the Internet enhance those already held in the library and often go beyond what is locally available. Users are encouraged to take advantage of the Internet and to exercise good judgment and discretion in their use of it.

WLS supports the right to privacy and confidentiality of Library users in accordance with the ALA's Library Bill of Rights; the Freedom to Read Statement; the Freedom to View; Access to Electronic Information Services and Networks; and with the policies, goals and objectives of this public library system. WLS does not monitor and has no control over the information accessed through the Internet, and therefore, cannot warrant the information available through its Internet connection to be accurate, authoritative, factual, timely or useful. In addition, because the content of the Internet is not managed or governed by any entity, users may encounter materials they consider offensive.

The board and employees of WLS assume no responsibility for damages of any type arising from the use of Internet workstations.

Use of the Internet for any illegal activity is prohibited. Such illegal activities may result in loss of system privileges and criminal prosecution. Use of the WLS Internet gateway/connection is intended for private, non-commercial activities, and does not permit unauthorized sales and marketing of products or services.

As with other library materials, the restriction of a child's access to the Internet is the responsibility of the parent/legal guardian.

*This policy was approved by the WLS Board of Trustees at their 2/22/2011 Meeting and is to be reviewed annually.*