INTERNET POLICY

GENERAL INFORMATION:
Georgetown Peabody Library is committed to providing access to informational, educational, recreational and cultural resources for library users of all ages and backgrounds. The Library's computer system provides the opportunity to integrate electronic resources from information networks around the world with the Library's other resources. The Library's goal in providing Internet access is to enhance its existing collection in size and depth and to give anyone who wishes to use the Internet the chance to do so.

The Library seeks to provide equal access to information for persons of all ages. With regard to the Internet, the Library does not selectively choose (i.e. filter) which electronic resources to make available. Just as parents are encouraged to discuss appropriate use of other Library materials, the Library encourages parents to discuss with their children the appropriate use of electronic resources available through the Internet.

Although we do not keep any permanent record of the sites you visit or the files you create, we would caution that complete privacy on shared computers is not a realistic expectation. In addition, the Library does not control what information is collected and/or disseminated by a particular site and is not responsible for the collection of data by any website. However, we do try to protect your privacy to the maximum extent possible.

All users of the Library's resources are expected to use them in a responsible manner, consistent with appropriate behavior in the Library (see Library Use Policy). Responsible, ethical use of such resources includes the following:
- You are responsible for complying with copyright law, licensing agreements and the policies of individual websites that you view.
- The Library will not tolerate use of its computers and network for an illegal activity or in a way that violates local, state, or federal law.
- Display of sexually explicit graphics or otherwise offensive material is inappropriate for an open public environment and is prohibited.
- You may not make any attempt to damage computer software or equipment.
- You may not make any attempt to alter software configurations in a malicious manner.
- You may not engage in any fraudulent activities.

The Library reserves its right to terminate an Internet session at any time. Illegal activities or activities that interfere with or disrupt the network, users, services or equipment are prohibited. Illegal acts involving Library resources may be subject to prosecution by local, state or federal officials. The Library does not routinely monitor public computers, but reserves the right to do so when a violation of this policy or illegal activity is suspected. Staff is authorized to take immediate action to protect the security of computers and the network. This includes confiscating any removable media, requiring a user to leave a computer or the premises, and contacting law enforcement authorities.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:
- Internet access is available whenever the Library is open.
- Printing is available at $.10 per page.
- Users must cooperate with librarians as requested to ensure equitable computer use and a safe computing environment. Failure to do so may result in loss of computer privileges.
- Users may plug any appropriate device into the side or front ports on our computers, but may not remove anything from the back of the computers.
- Users must utilize headphones when listening to audio content, and keep volume low so they do not disturb others.

- Patrons shall not gather around/stand behind computer users since doing so may obstruct or distract other patrons.

CHILDREN'S ROOM COMPUTER USE:
The Children's Room provides Internet access to minors through age 12. The Internet is an ever changing source of information and not all sites are accurate or current. Many sites are inappropriate for minors, and therefore parents are encouraged to come to the Library and use the Internet with their minors. Ultimate responsibility for how minors use the Internet is a matter for parents and their minors to decide, and the Library is not responsible for the content of any information viewed by minors at the Library. Adults and teens unaccompanied by minors should use computers outside the Children's Room.

Approved by the Library Board of Trustees on 3/9/2016; revised on 9/12/2018.