Internet Access and ~~Wireless~~ *Wi-Fi* Usage Policy
Adopted May 1, 1999; Revised January 27, 2015; October 2019:
Adopted by the North Richland Hills Library Board October 21, 2019

The North Richland Hills Library offers free internet access to the public. The internet enables the Library to provide information beyond the confines of its own collection to enhance research, learning, and ~~*enjoyment opportunities*~~ *entertainment purposes* for the North Richland Hills community. ***The North Richland Hills Library Patron Behavior Policy always applies to patrons using public computers and/or Wi-Fi access.***

Users of both the Library's public computers and Wi-Fi services assume responsibility for protecting and securing all their data, including account passwords. Users of these services agree to hold the City harmless for any damages.

MOVED **Library Rules Governing Internet Use**
- Access is on a first-come, first-served basis. Time limits may be set based on usage patterns.
- Patrons may not change the settings of the Library's computer equipment and software, or add to, delete, or modify the installed software.
- Patrons must use headphones or earbuds for all audio.
- Patrons may not use the Library's ~~*computers*~~ ***technology*** to make unauthorized entry to any other computer, or to disrupt or interfere with the operation of other computer network patrons, services, or equipment.
- Patrons may not represent themselves as another person or use the internet to transmit obscene, threatening, or harassing materials.
- Patrons must respect the legal protections to data and software provided by copyright and license law.
- Internet access at the Library is self-guided. Staff at service desks will help patrons who need assistance to get online and provide some basic guidance on how to locate the information the patron needs.
- Staff cannot create passwords, type documents, or complete forms for patrons.
- ***Staff do not retain*** ~~cannot assist patrons with anything that allows a staff member access to a~~ patron's private or confidential information, such as logins, passwords, or legal documents.

~~**The Library reserves the right to take appropriate action to ensure compliance with these rules including, but not limited to, loss of Library privileges and legal prosecution.**~~

Public Computer Use
~~Patrons are welcome to use the Library's computers any time the Library is open.~~ ***Public computer access requires a North Richland Hills Library card or a guest pass. (moved)*** There is no charge to access a computer, but established fees apply when patrons print from a ***public*** computer ***or personal device***.

~~The vast amount of material available on the internet cannot be monitored or controlled by the North Richland Hills Library. The Library's computers employ filtering software that limits the likelihood of patrons accessing information that is commonly deemed offensive. No filter is 100% effective, and the Library is not responsible should these protections prove ineffective or provide personally offensive information.~~

The Library's public computers do not retain any data after a patron logs off. This includes websites visited, passwords, credit card numbers, or any other information entered during a session.

The Library is not responsible for any loss of work due to uncontrollable forces, such as but not limited to software glitches, computer shutdowns, malware, viruses, or power outages.

The Library complies with state and federal law, including but not limited to the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) and Chapter 43 of the Texas Penal Code, mandating the use of measures that prevent minors from accessing or being exposed to material on the Internet that is (a) obscene; (b) child pornography; or (c) harmful to minors (e.g. "hacking" and other unlawful activities online). Filtering software is installed on all public Internet computers to meet this requirement to the extent technically possible. Patrons must accept responsibility for determining the suitability of content for themselves or their children.

Patrons are reminded that the Library is a public place where all are welcome. Patrons must be considerate of others and avoid downloading or displaying information or images in violation of Texas Law PC 43.24(b): Sale, Distribution, or Display of Harmful Material to a Minor, which states:

> (b) A person commits an offense if, knowing that the material is harmful:
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> (1) and knowing the person is a minor, he sells, distributes, exhibits, or possesses for sale, distribution, or exhibition to a minor harmful material;
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> (2) he displays harmful material and is reckless about whether a minor is present who will be offended or alarmed by the display; or
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> (3) he hires, employs, or uses a minor to do or accomplish or assist in doing or accomplishing any of the acts prohibited in Subsection (b)(1) or (b)(2).

Responsibilities of Patrons
- ~~*Supervising Children's Use:*~~ Any restriction of a child's access to the internet is the responsibility of the child's parent or guardian. The Library does not have either the right or the responsibility to act *in loco parentis*.
- ***Guest passes are only issued to children under the age of 13 with the consent of a parent or guardian.***
- ~~*File Storage:*~~ Patrons are responsible for saving their files to external devices or cloud-based storage. Files saved on Library computers are deleted upon logging out.
- ~~*Choosing and Evaluating Information Sources:*~~ Patrons should exercise judgment in evaluating the validity of information. Sources on the internet do not always provide accurate, complete, or current information.

~~Wireless Use~~ *Public Wi-Fi Access*
The Library provides free, ~~*unfiltered*~~ wireless access as a public service. By choosing to use this service, a patron agrees to abide by this policy.

The Library's wireless network is not secure~~*, but it does require authentication*~~. Patrons are responsible for their devices' anti-virus and security software. The Library is not responsible for any loss of data, theft, or damage to personal equipment or software.

Due to the diversity of mobile computing equipment available, Library staff may provide "how-to" assistance for patrons to successfully use Library-supported resources but is not permitted to configure or troubleshoot a patron's wireless device.

Compliance
The Library reserves the right to take appropriate action to ensure compliance with these rules including, but not limited to, loss of Library privileges and legal prosecution.