

# Jervis Public Library

## Internet Access Policy

**The Internet and the Library's Mission:** The Internet is a global electronic network to which Jervis offers access as part of its mission to provide a wide variety of services. Internet access at the library is intended to support library research above all. All Mid-York Library System libraries have been awarded Advanced Electronic Doorway Library status by the NYS Dept. of Education & Board of Regents, which urge such access for all. The library's endorsement of the Library Bill of Rights, Freedom to Read, and Free Access to Libraries for Minors applies as well to electronic information. Library Internet access is provided via the Mid-York System and independently contracted Internet service providers. The library does not guarantee availability of Internet service. The library does not provide Internet service beyond the capabilities of its computers, software, or wireless signal, as configured.

**The Nature of Information on the Internet:** The Internet is not controlled or governed by any single entity, hence, Jervis cannot verify the accuracy, timeliness, usefulness, validity of information, availability of sites, or content of information found on the Internet. Availability of networked information via library computers does not constitute the library's endorsement of the information. As with other sources, patrons themselves must evaluate Internet content. If a patron believes information obtained via the Internet is inaccurate, illegal, or offensive, the patron is advised to contact the original producer or distributor of that information.

**Statement of Parental/Guardian Responsibility:** Jervis Board of Trustees' policy is that parents or legal guardians are responsible for deciding what library resources and services are appropriate for their minor children. As with other library resources, supervision or restriction of a child's access to the Internet remains the responsibility of a parent or legal guardian. Children also bear responsibility in using library resources and services properly. The library proactively distributes copies of *Tips for Parents for Online Computer Safety*, and an *Online Safety Pledge*, which it urges parents and guardians to review with their children. More information on children and the Internet can be found in the Children's Library and on the library's website at <http://www.jervislibrary.org>. The website includes children's and young adult web pages that provide links to numerous Internet sites parents or guardians may find age-appropriate and useful for their children.

**Appropriate Use & Disclaimer:** All users of electronic resources are to act in a responsible and ethical manner, consistent with policies of the library and, for minors, consistent also with parental or guardian guidance. In accordance with federal and state laws and regulations, patrons are not permitted to use computers for any illegal or criminal purpose, including, but not limited to, accessing legally obscene materials, harassment or stalking, unauthorized access to computer systems, or in a manner disruptive of other people's work. The library expressly disclaims any liability or responsibility arising from access to or use of information obtained through electronic information services and systems; and encompassing any activities by a user found to be illegal, or any consequences thereof. Patrons who violate policies risk losing library privileges, including, but not limited to, computer and wireless access privileges.

**Access and Privacy Restrictions:** It is likely that the number of computers will never equal demand. Access restrictions are essential for equitable and orderly use. A maximum of two people may use a library computer. The library reserves the right to enforce a time allowance per session, including printing, and to charge for printing. Due to the locations and configuration of the computers, and the public nature of accessing the Internet in the library, patrons' privacy is not ensured.

**Staff Internet Assistance:** Librarians will show patrons how to browse the Internet and explain basic navigational commands. Library staff cannot assist in configuring computers not owned by the library. Lengthy one-on-one tutorials are not possible due to staffing constraints. Patrons may enroll in free Internet classes at the library Information Desk.

*This policy will be revised from time to time by the Board of Trustees.  
Approved by the Board of Trustees 9/19/1996, 2/12/1998, 9/20/2001.  
Updated 4/2004, 6/2005, 3/2008*