

## **Internet Policy**

In accordance with its mission to serve as an information resource, the New Haven Free Public Library provides access to the Internet, which expands the library's information services well beyond traditional and in-house collections. The Internet is a worldwide computer network that provides access to a massive body of information. Since the library serves a diverse community, these resources are utilized in many different ways and for different purposes. Library staff is available to provide Internet classes as well as some guidance on how to navigate this unregulated medium.

The library provides equal and free access to all and respects its obligation to protect the First Amendment rights of its customers and their individual right to privacy. Because the Internet computers are located in a public space, absolute privacy cannot be guaranteed, nor promised. While the Internet offers access to a wealth of material that is personally, professionally, and culturally enriching to individuals of all ages, it also provides access to material that may be offensive, disturbing and/or illegal, inaccurate or incomplete. In order to have the most positive experience possible, the library expects patrons to be familiar with library rules regarding Internet use (available at each library branch), and expects patrons to learn about the various available sites. It is also incumbent upon Internet patrons to be considerate of others in their use of others in their use of this medium, and to respect time limits on use of computer equipment.

The New Haven Free Public Library assumes no responsibility for any damages, direct or indirect, arising from use of its electronic services or its connections to the Internet. We comply fully with the Child Internet Protection Act, copies of which are available to the public at all our libraries. Parents or guardians may still wish to decide which library resources they deem appropriate for their children.

*Approved by the NHFPL Board of Directors, February 26, 2002.*