

The Library provides open, secure, and equitable access to technology resources as part of its purpose to foster a culture of life-long learning for all residents of the County of Brant.

Digital devices, services, and wireless Internet are located in public areas that are shared by library patrons of all ages, backgrounds, and sensibilities. Individuals are required to consider other patrons when accessing or using any public or personal resources within the library.

Information Quality: Because the Internet is an unregulated medium, the County of Brant Public Library has no control over its resources nor does the Library have complete knowledge of what is on the Internet. Information on the internet may be reliable and correct or it may be inaccurate, out-of-date, or unavailable at times. Users are advised to evaluate the validity of the information found on the internet. Library staff are trained and available to help users identify and evaluate sources.

Use by Children: The Internet contains material that some users may consider objectionable or offensive. The Library does not use filtering software and cannot protect users from information or graphic images which they might find offensive or disturbing.

Parents/guardians are expected to monitor and supervise their children's use of the Internet and are responsible for information accessed by their children.

Privacy and Security: The Internet is not a secure medium and third parties may be able to access and obtain information about users' activities. The Library is diligent in securing network traffic and guarding patrons' privacy, however, patrons are responsible for their security online and for protecting their information while using any of the library's technology resources.

Patrons are advised to use caution in sharing or providing any personal information over the Internet.

Prohibited Uses: Patrons using library digital devices or services, including wireless Internet access and makerspace technology resources such as 3D printers, are not permitted to:

- Participate in any illegal activity.
- Access, transmit materials or create content that violate any Canadian federal or provincial law such as defamatory, discriminatory, or obscene materials.
- Send, record or print fraudulent, harassing, hateful or obscene messages or activities.
- Violate the privacy of anyone including another library patron.

- Introduce computer viruses, malware, or any similar software intended to circumvent security, cause disruption of service or infringe on the privacy of other people or organizations.

print weapons, sexually explicit materials, or any other material that violates the Library's Rules of Conduct.

Users of Library public access computers or the wireless Internet network are required to acknowledge and accept the Library's Internet Terms of Use (Appendix A).

Theft and Damage: Patrons are responsible for any damage or loss that may result from their use of technology resources, including makerspace equipment. Patrons are required to pay the repair or replacement costs for damaged digital devices. Failure to return digital devices borrowed will result in lost borrowing privileges. Removal of any digital device without authorization is considered theft and may lead to legal prosecution.

Social Media: County of Brant Public Library's social media channels are used to engage and update the public on services, events and programs, and respond to inquiries. The Library aims to respond to feedback and questions in a timely manner, however because we cannot participate in all discussions, we use our judgement to determine which messages require a response. Patrons may not use offensive, racist, sexist, or derogatory language or images when communicating with the Library. The Library reserves the right to report or remove language or images it deems offensive or in contradiction to its policies.

The Library recognizes that staff may contribute to or participate in social networking in their personal life above and beyond their contributions to Library-owned channels.

Library employees must observe the following guidelines:

1. Include a disclaimer which states that opinions are yours alone and do not reflect those of the Library. Example: "The opinions expressed on this site are my own and do not necessarily represent those of The County of Brant Public Library."
2. Remember that all contributions to the online environment are not private and may impact on the organization.

Acceptance of Terms: This policy constitutes an agreement between the County of Brant Public Library and patrons using the library's technology resources. Individuals violating any of these terms will have their library privileges suspended and will be held legally and financially responsible.

Appendix A

County of Brant Public Library Internet Terms of Use

By accessing the Library's computer or wireless network, you acknowledge that you're of legal age, you have read and understood and agree to be bound by this agreement.

The computer and wireless network service is provided by the County of Brant Public Library and is completely at their discretion. Your access to the network may be blocked, suspended, or terminated at any time for any reason.

You agree not to use the network for any purpose that is unlawful and take full responsibility for your acts.

The computer and wireless network is provided "as is" without any warranties of any kind, either expressed or implied.