INTERNET & COMPUTER ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY

Purpose:

AZRLS provides **filtered** access to the Internet as a means of fulfilling its mission to "collect, organize and make accessible informational, educational, recreational, and cultural resources" to meet the changing needs of its patrons of all ages and cultural and economic backgrounds. AZRLS views access to the Internet as a privilege of its patrons, not a right. The Regional Board supports the idea that all members of the community have free and equal access to the entire range of library resources, regardless of content, approach, format, or amount of detail.

Responsibilities of the Azalea Regional Library System:

AZRLS complies with all provisions of the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) as codified at 47 U.S.C. § 254(h) and (I). The Internet is an unregulated and rapidly changing medium. It contains a wealth of diverse material that is personally, professionally, and culturally enriching to individuals of all ages, but it also contains materials that may be offensive, controversial, disturbing, illegal, harmful to minors, inaccurate, or incomplete. **AZRLS does not monitor or control anyone's access to equipment or to the range of information available within the limits of state and/or federal law**. AZRLS does restrict access to Internet content for *all* library computers through electronic filtering provided by our current internet provider and/or internal measures. Even so, AZRLS has no control over information accessed through the Internet and cannot be held responsible for its content. Provision of Internet access by the AZRLS does not constitute an endorsement of any particular information contained on the Internet. AZRLS shall have no liability for direct, indirect, or consequential damages related to the use of information accessed on the Internet from library equipment. Library patrons use the Internet at their own risk. Therefore, users are encouraged to evaluate the validity of information obtained from the Internet.

Responsibility of Patrons and Parents of Minors:

Patrons must present a PINES library card in good standing to use library computers (Patrons may use a computer if they have fines, but not if they have a status of BLOCKED in the circulation system or if they have long overdue or lost materials). Exceptions to this policy are allowable in instances such as out-of-state travelers, short-term guests in the community, and any other patron who, for one reason or another, is unable to satisfy the requirements to obtain a PINES card. Refusal to apply for a library card is not a satisfactory exception to this policy.

It is ultimately the patron's responsibility to ensure that they are able to use library computers and otherwise make full use of the library by being able to present their library card.

Individuals must accept responsibility for determining what is or is not appropriate for themselves. AZRLS upholds and affirms the right of each individual to have access to constitutionally protected materials and also affirms the right and responsibility of parents to determine and monitor their children's use of library materials and resources. Parents and guardians who wish to limit or restrict the access of their own children must personally oversee their children's use of the Internet and other forms of electronic information. Parents and guardians are encouraged to work closely with their children in the library and particularly on the Internet. Parents are expected to monitor and supervise their children's use of the Internet in selecting material that is consistent with personal and family values and is appropriate for the age and understanding of their children. AZRLS does not and cannot provide this monitoring or supervision. Parents are encouraged to read "Librarian's Guide to Cyberspace for Parents & Kids," copies of which are available on the internet at: www.ala.org/parentspage/greatsites/guide.html.

By presenting proper photo identification, a current Georgia Library PINES card, and filling out and signing the appropriate form, library patrons, aged eighteen (18) years or older, may request that filtering software be turned off on public Internet access computers. Filters shall be removed only from those computers approved by library staff. See "Request for Removal of Filter Software on Internet Accessible Computers."

Internet computers shall not be used for illegal activity, to access illegal materials, or to access materials that by local community standards would be considered obscene. Library employees are authorized to take prompt and appropriate actions to enforce the "Rules for Library Users Policy."

Internet users are reminded that:

Not all sources on the Internet provide accurate, complete, or current information.

Public library computer terminals are neither private nor secure. Users should exercise extreme caution about revealing any personal identification information (e.g., name, address, telephone number, e-mail address, social security number, age, or credit card number) over the Internet. Minors should **NEVER** disclose any personal identification information over the Internet.

If you receive an e-mail message from a person unknown to you or from an unfamiliar e-mail address, the best and safest policy is to delete it without opening.