



## Burdekin Shire Council

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## Policy Register

<b>Category:</b>	LIBRARIES
<b>Policy Number:</b>	L001
<b>Meeting &amp; Date:</b>	Memo dated 17 February 1997
<b>Policy Title:</b>	POLICY FOR PUBLIC ACCESS TO THE INTERNET AT SHIRE LIBRARIES

### Burdekin Shire Council Policy on Public Internet Use

The Burdekin Library aims to provide a balanced collection of book and non-book resources, including the Internet, to fulfil the information, education, recreation and cultural needs and requirements of the residents of the Burdekin Shire.

#### 1. Content

(a) By providing public access to the Internet in both its branches, the Burdekin Library offers access to information, ideas and commentary beyond the confines of its own collection via the World Wide Web.

(b) However, the content of the material available on the Internet is not controlled in any way, nor is it monitored by the Burdekin Library. The Burdekin Library therefore requires clients to make their own evaluation of the truth, completeness, accuracy or suitability of information obtained from the Internet.

#### 2. Access

(a) The Burdekin Library does not monitor or censor access to information available on the Internet. While the World Wide Web offers access to a wealth of material that is personally, professionally and culturally enriching, it also allows access to some material that may be offensive, disturbing and/or illegal.

(b) The Burdekin Library regards current filtering software as inaccurate and unreliable. These software packages do not take into account the wide range of clients who use the Internet in a public library. The use of such software may lead to both adults and children missing out on vital information.

(c) The Burdekin Library seeks to address the concerns of parents and the community by placing Internet computers in full public view at both branches. Information on safe surfing and access to sites recommended for children and parents is available in both the Internet Reference collection and the general collection.

(d) The Burdekin Library will not be held responsible for inadvertent exposure by minors or adults to potentially offensive material accessed by Internet users on Library equipment. The Library is not and will not be held responsible for what a minor or adult may locate on the Internet. As with other library materials, restriction of a minor's access to information on the Internet is the responsibility of the parent or legal guardian.

(e) The Burdekin Library will not be held responsible for access delays encountered in Internet use due to telecommunications or other technical problems beyond its control.

#### 3. Conditions and Terms of Use in the Library

**A.** In order to maximise Internet availability, and to ensure equitable access to all clients, the following conditions apply.

(a) Prior bookings are essential. Bookings may be for half hour or one hour sessions.

(b) A fee for public internet access is payable after the session. Correct change would be appreciated.

(c) Latecomers will not be able to make up the time they have missed if another booking follows. Clients more than 10 minutes late may be required to forfeit the whole booking.

(d) Staff may assist clients in getting started, but are not available for in-depth training for Internet use.

**B. Additional services and conditions.**

(a) An ink-jet printer is available for copying. A fee is charged per page, payable after the session. Clients are responsible for ensuring that Copyright provisions are not breached. Copyright regulations are displayed at Internet stations at both branches.

(b) Users must not download software from the Internet onto the library computer however downloading is permitted onto disks which may be purchased from the library.

(c) Data downloaded from the Internet may contain viruses. Every user is responsible for maintaining virus-checking software on their home computer. The Burdekin Library will not be held responsible for viruses downloaded from the Internet.

(d) Clients may not use their own personal software on Library equipment.

(e) E-mail is available to clients only if they have their own personal E-mail address.

(f) Clients should be aware that Internet communications are not secure, and the Burdekin Library is not responsible for the privacy of electronic communication.

**4. Standards of Behaviour**

Standards of behaviour while using the Burdekin Library's public use facilities are the responsibility of clients, or in the case of minors, the responsibility of their parents/guardians. Intentional misuse of these facilities may result in the removal of access privileges.

**A. Unacceptable use includes, but is not limited to:**

(a) Destruction of, or damage to equipment, software or data belonging to the Burdekin Library.

(b) Unauthorised monitoring of electronic communications.

(c) Intentional unauthorised copying of copyright-protected material or infringements of licence agreements.

(d) Invasion of the privacy of others.

(e) The distribution of unsolicited advertising.

(f) Use of the Internet for commercial or financial gain.

(g) Use of the Internet for any illegal activity.

**B. Clients' access to offensive or inappropriate material is unacceptable in a public area.**

(a) Internet computers in both Libraries are in full public view. Clients found accessing offensive or inappropriate material will have their sessions terminated promptly, and may be denied further future use of the Library's Internet facilities.

(b) Rowdy or disruptive behaviour at Internet facilities will not be tolerated.

**C. Users are expected to observe the rules of "Netiquette" at all times.**

**5. Disclaimer**

Clients are required to read the Conditions of Internet use before using the Burdekin Library's public Internet facilities.

The Burdekin Library will from time to time adapt and update this Policy on Public Internet Use, in line with developments and changes in the Internet itself.

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