DENTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
TECHNOLOGY PLAN
2009-2011

Mission Statement

The mission of the Denton Public Library is to provide an environment where the people of the community can meet their educational, personal, professional, and informational needs. The Denton Library nurtures the love of reading and the pursuit of knowledge. The library services are planned to satisfy the needs of residents both as individuals and as members of groups, with concern for all ages, backgrounds, interests, abilities and levels of education. The library has an obligation to serve not only its current users, but to search for materials and programs that will meet the needs of future users of the library and those members of the community that have not traditionally been library users. The Denton Public Library strives to be a center for residents to read, think, learn, interpret, imagine, and connect with each other and the world.

Vision Statement

The vision of the Denton Public Library is to provide informational resources to the patrons of our library easily and quickly in a clean and inviting building that is well organized and has up to date collections with friendly professional service. We will monitor the communities changing informational needs, and strive to provide both traditional and new technologies to help meet the needs of the Denton community.

Goals and Objectives

Goal 1 – To provide databases to the public for public use.

Objectives

1. To subscribe to the statewide periodical databases and Heritage Quest genealogical database that are available through the Montana State Library and make them available to the Denton community from inside the library, or from a home computer.
2. Staff training – OCLC and Infotrac state training.
3. Budget –Montana State Library will be paying the entire cost for the statewide databases for the next two years, so therefore our cost should be zero other than paying to get to training if it is not available online. Cost for having Heritage Quest is only $100.00 per year, as the subscription is shared by many libraries throughout the state. Will revisit this item in budget when renewal is due in September 2009.
4. Evaluation – we will need to check periodically to see if people are indeed using the databases as a resource, and if they are not, find out why.

Goal 2 – To maintain Internet usage to the public.

Objectives

1. Training - ongoing training on new resources and applications.
2. Budget - continue with the use of the E-rate program and monies from the general fund to pay for DSL/wireless connection.
3. Evaluation – periodic needs assessments to determine how many patrons are using the PAC and the wireless connection to access Internet.

Goal 3 – To maintain the Web page for the Denton Public Library.

Objectives

1. Training – look at different options for web pages such as purchasing web hosting service and maintaining it or taking a web page design course.
2. Budget – We currently use a free and very basic web hosting service from Google called googlepages. It is completely free, therefore we do not need to set any funds aside at this time.
3. Evaluation – Are people accessing the Web page? How many people are using it? Would it be used more if we had a more sophisticated page?

Goal 4 – To provide two public access computers instead of just one in the library for public usage.

Objectives

1. Training – Library can offer general Internet and technology training with the help of the Montana State Library training programs.
2. Budget – we will purchase a computer table which houses two computers with a grant from the Central Montana Foundation. May consider purchasing a flat monitor for use with older tower.
3. Evaluation – How many patrons are using our computers within the library each day?

Within each of these goals is the separate goal of replacing the Sonicwall internet security device as it is getting quite old.

Professional Development Strategy

Staff will participate in professional development opportunities and improve job performance skills by attending training workshops through the Montana State Library and completing the Montana Library Certification program. Since we are a very small town, there are little or no opportunities for local training. However, if budget and time resources allow, staff will attend training to stay up to date on new technologies, and we will look into free classes offered online by Webjunction and others. Other options include networking with other libraries in the South Central Federation that have newer technologies and resources for sharing. All current members of staff are proficient in computer use and know how to access Internet.

Needs Assessment of Telecommunication Services, Hardware, Software, and Other Services

- Firewall and filtering software is a few years old and we will have to think about replacing them within the next 3 years. (Goals 1-4)
- Software for webpage, domain name – charges from Internet provider. (Goal 3)
- General Internet use – is the bandwidth meeting our needs? What are the costs and benefits of going up to next level? (Goal 2)
- Computer table and chairs for housing two public access computers, desk with plug-in nearby for wireless internet users with their own laptop computer.

Budget

The Denton Public Library is in the same building/office as the Town offices, which pays for most of the overhead costs of doing business with the exception of using E-rate funds for the telecommunication services. The Library receives at total of $10,200 from the Town's General Fund instead of an allocation of mills. This was begun is fiscal year 2008/2009. We also receive $3000.00 from the county, and grant of approximately $1500.00 from the South Central Federation – which is used primarily for technology related purposes. One item which will have to be addressed is the ongoing maintenance requirements on the two computers in our library. The funds for this will most likely come from the general operating fund for the Town, which operated on 163.33 mills with total resources of $93,980.00 for fiscal year 2008/2009.

Evaluation

The Denton Public Library will conduct an annual needs assessment to determine whether library resources, services, and programs are meeting the needs of our users. The DPL will collect statistical data that will be used to determine if we are succeeding in meeting our technological goals that have been stated on an annual basis, or sooner if necessary. If it is determined that the Plan needs to be changed or updated, the Library Director, in conjunction with the Board of Trustees, will do so.