

Suggested 2007 LSTA Technology Projects

1. **Purchase titles to keep netLibrary collection up to date.**

Because of changes in how netLibrary is licensing to consortium, none of our Wisconsin Public Library Consortium (WPLC) expenditures are going to purchase netLibrary titles. If we would like to continue to develop this collection, we will need to do so with our own money.

Amount proposed: \$5000 would purchase a collection of technology titles from netLibrary.

Decision: Fund with \$5000

2. **2-4 hours of library staff technology training on whatever topic the library wants.**

Libraries would apply for a technology trainer to come to their library for 2-4 hours of one-on-one training. The training would instruct them on whatever they would like.

Amount proposed: \$3600 would buy almost 4.5 (assuming travel) hours of training for 52 libraries (at \$15.00/hour)

Decision: Fund with \$3600

3. **Patron technology training, including Spanish language technology training**

As in previous years, libraries could apply for a grant to either hire an outside trainer to train patrons on technology topics, or could pay staff for extra hours to prepare and conduct the training.

Amount proposed: \$10,000

Decision: Fund with \$9,500

4. **Gadgets/Gadget training**

Purchase a stable of gadgets (smartphones, video/audio players, etc.) to train library staff on how consumers are using these gadgets. Also develop a curriculum library staff can use to train patrons on these gadgets.

Amount proposed: \$2300

Decision: Fund with \$2800

5. Game console/games

Create a package similar to the presentation package with game console, a few games, and dance pads so libraries can experiment with offering game nights.

Amount proposed: \$600

Decision: Fund with \$600

6. Digitization of a local county history title

Digitizing an Adams County history title will complete a title for each county in the system.

Amount proposed: \$1700.

Decision: Fund with \$1700

7. RFID investigation and implementation

RFID technology is being deployed in many libraries as a means of streamlining workflows and automating repetitive tasks.*** Our member libraries have expressed interest in deploying this technology in 2007. We have a taskforce continuing this investigation, and see a need for the system to provide a leadership role in the investigation and implementation of this technology within the system.

Amount proposed: \$2000

Decision: Fund with \$2000

8. Sun Server administration training

To effectively administer the new Sun server and the eventual Horizon system, staff require operating system software training from professional resources. Regional providers have been investigated. Classes cost approximately \$2500 each. 4 courses will be attended by 1 or 2 LINK employees to enhance their system administration and performance monitoring skills.

Amount proposed: \$10,000

Decision: Fund with \$10,000

9. Storage array upgrade

The LINK Dynix ILS database server was upgraded to new Sun hardware in 2006. The external disk array for it was originally configured to be half full, because that is all that was needed. In 2007, expanding the disk array to full capacity by adding six 73GB disks would result in a fault tolerant storage capacity of over 800 GB total. This storage capacity could then be repurposed to reinforce LINK/SCLS LAN backup systems, after the Horizon ILS is installed and the existing Dynix database gets retired.

Amount proposed: \$6,000

Decision: Fund with \$6,000

10. Server administration LAN

To allow for very high speed, high volume data copying between servers for backup and processing, it is desirable to upgrade parts of the LINK computer room LAN to full Gigabit Ethernet. A large Gigabit switch could be added to the communications rack, and most servers could attach directly to it for the best possible throughput. Most would connect through secondary NICs. This would leave their existing LAN connections for normal user access and the new high speed port could be reserved for high overhead server administration access.

Amount proposed: \$3,000

Decision: Fund with \$3,000

11. Dr. Disc repair

Dr. Disc offers a service where libraries can send in DVDs for repair. LSTA funds would be used for a small pilot project with 1-2 libraries to determine how good the service is, and if it can be recommended for other SCLS libraries.

Amount: \$795 (25 discs/month total)

Recommendation: Do not fund with LSTA. Possibly fund with system funds, if there is enough interest from libraries.

12. Playaway titles

"We're experimenting this year with a small collection of Playaway titles. We've ordered \$1000 worth (about 24 items) and will be circulating them as walk-in items just to work out the idiosyncrasies of the format. I'll forward the latest email from the Findaway Company regarding additions to the collection and also discounts available for libraries buying in large quantities. It might be worth considering for LSTA."

Recommendation: Do not fund with LSTA. Because Playaways are essentially materials for individual library collections, we really do not want to fund with LSTA

money. This technology is beyond "pilot" because many SCLS libraries are already circulating them.

13. Adaptive devices

The suggestion received in this area was not specific. However, we could put some funds into allowing libraries to apply for small grants to cover updating an existing workstation to ensure that each library has a workstation that is ADA compliant.

Amount: Unknown

Recommendation: In 2007, SCLS will conduct training on different issues related to adaptive technology and how to best serve individuals who may need special accommodations. We will also investigate what would be needed to make sure each library will have an accessible workstation, and may apply for a separate LSTA grant in 2007, use LSTA funds in 2008, or use other system funds to help provide what is needed.

14. Laptop and projector for smaller group of libraries to share

" A laptop computer for those libraries that do not have one available for staff AND a projector to use during training, etc. I know we can get the instructor kit through SCLS but I have found it is usually booked. (Maybe I just have to plan further ahead) but I think most of the larger libraries probably have their own, so maybe some of the small libraries could share one--such as CAMB, DEE, MAR. and that would cut down on the expense."

Recommendation: Because SCLS has a number of laptops and projectors for libraries to borrow, we would not recommend funding this item.

15. "Lifelong Access Libraries Initiative"

The "Lifelong Access Libraries Initiative" is a model for library service focused on the needs of active older adults. Training on this initiative is offered through the Bill and Melinda Gates foundation.

Amount: Unknown

Recommendation: The SCLS CE Coordinator will investigate having training from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation in this area.

16. Hovercraft for politician re-education.

" We are going to need a spaceship so we can hover over the politicians and beam them up to the ship so we can talk some sense into them about funding issues.. "

Amount: Unknown, but probably more than is available in this year's LSTA funds.

Recommendation: While this will not be funded with LSTA funds, it will be put in the system's long-range plan as a possible direction, when necessary funding becomes available. ;-)

17. Group purchase of devices compatible with OverDrive

"Group purchase of devices compatible with Overdrive. They would be available through various libraries for check out. A group purchase might lead to a discounted price."

Amount: To purchase one device at a cost of \$60 for each library, the cost would be \$3780. It is unlikely that we would be able to generate an order large enough to reduce this cost significantly.

Recommendation: Do not fund. In the past, JTC has felt that equipment purchases for individual libraries should be funded by individual libraries, rather than by a system-wide grant.

18. Group purchase of Online Computer classes

"Group purchase of online computer classes. Word and Excel are always in demand. Individual libraries would promote reservations for access to these classes and help customers get set up at the library. Individual libraries would have to apply for a number of "seats" in the classes and commit to promoting them and offering a little assistance for those who sign up."

Amount: Unknown

Recommendation: Because there is already a recommendation to spend \$10,000 in LSTA funds in the category of patron training, we do not recommend funding this as a separate item. However, libraries could use their patron training grants for this purpose, if they would like.

19. Group purchase of laptops to be circulated to patrons.

"Group purchase of sturdy laptops (some are manufactured for use "in the field" by civil engineers and the like). All would be loaded with a standard configuration of software. Each library who buys one (or maybe only agrees to hold it - since the grant money buys the laptops) would check it out to customers. Upon the item's return, it is wiped clean and reloaded with software from scratch (the most conservative option). Universities already do this- we would copy what is already in practice at a college that is agreeable to sharing its procedures."

Recommendation: Because this project would cost many thousands of dollars, because patrons of only those selected libraries would benefit, and because of filtering issues related to purchasing computers with LSTA funds, we recommend that we do not use LSTA money to fund it.

20. Videoconferences with authors

"I would love to videoconference with great authors, popular authors. It would ignite more excitement in book discussions if we knew we could yak with the author, seeing the author converse with us, etc."

Cost: Would vary, depending on author and sites, etc.

Recommendation: SCLS has recently joined OPAL (<http://www.opal-online.org>), an online conferencing service. Many libraries use their OPAL meeting rooms to host author visits, and SCLS could do the same thing. Opportunities for author visits and other programs via videoconferencing may be possible by partnering with schools. While this initiative is not recommended to be funded with LSTA funds, it is something that SCLS is interested in, and will be investigating.

21. Spanish language books on cassette or CD

"Recently a staff person at our library was helping a Spanish speaking patron find some audiobooks in Spanish. This particular patron was interested in fiction audiobooks. Would there ever be grant money for something like this?"

Recommendation: This cannot be funded with LSTA money because it is not "technology" related. The responding library was referred to the SCLS Youth Services & Outreach Coordinator.