

Ilona Public Library Technology Grant Proposal

Overview

I am writing as the library director for Ilona Public Library (IPL), a small library located in rural central Oregon, to request \$14,938.99 from the Public Library Technology Grant Council. IPL serves as the main source of educational, informational and recreational opportunity for Ilona, population: 2,855. The mission of the Ilona Public Library is to provide an environment where lifelong habits of learning, self-improvement and self-expression are encouraged. The Library strives to provide its patrons with equitable access to the accumulated knowledge of the world.

IPL's technology objectives are to:

- Provide increased access to Internet, especially for those currently without access to computers, or with limited exposure to technology
- Build patron technology skills to benefit the community through increased access to employment resources, health care information, continuing education opportunities, small business resources, entertainment options and global connections
- Facilitate staff helping patrons locate and use resources in a timely and effective manner

At this time, only one computer is available at IPL for the public to access the Internet and electronic library resources. Since many residents of Ilona either do not own computers or do not have access to Internet services, patrons frequently must reserve a ½ hour of computer time up to a week in advance. Because of this high demand and low supply, the library is currently not able to offer much needed and requested computer education classes. Currently, the library is also unable to provide even the most basic reference services requiring a computer. IPL's staff of two full time employees and four part-time employee-volunteers must share two 10-year-old staff computers, one devoted to cataloging and the other exclusively to book check-out.

Because Ilona is a rural community, the need for library access to computers is great. Many residents are poor, elderly or have young children, and would benefit enormously from having access to a wider variety of more up-to-date resources. Because there are no simple alternatives to using the library (visiting bookstores or locally calling or visiting doctors and lawyers in person is not possible without at least a two hour drive), the citizens of Ilona rely on IPL to provide all of its immediate information needs. Although our county rejected a bond levy last year that would give additional funding to libraries, this does not reflect a lack of public support for libraries in Ilona. Recently we ran a survey that indicated that 85% of Ilona residents viewed the library as "necessary" and 52% percent claimed to visit on a "weekly or bi-weekly basis." Imagine the impact that public computers will have on a high schooler researching college options and scholarship opportunities, or on a senior citizen trying to locate information about a health condition or social security benefits. With a technology grant from PLTGC, those scenarios could become a reality for Ilona.

Statement of Requirements

For increased access to internet:

- * 5 computers for public electronic resources
- * Adequate Internet access & bandwidth
- * A method of preventing patrons from making changes to the public computers
- * Timer software to distribute turns amongst patrons and save staff time and monitoring
- * Security for internal and external computer networks
- * Staff training on how to use new computers and network
- * Lockable closet for server security

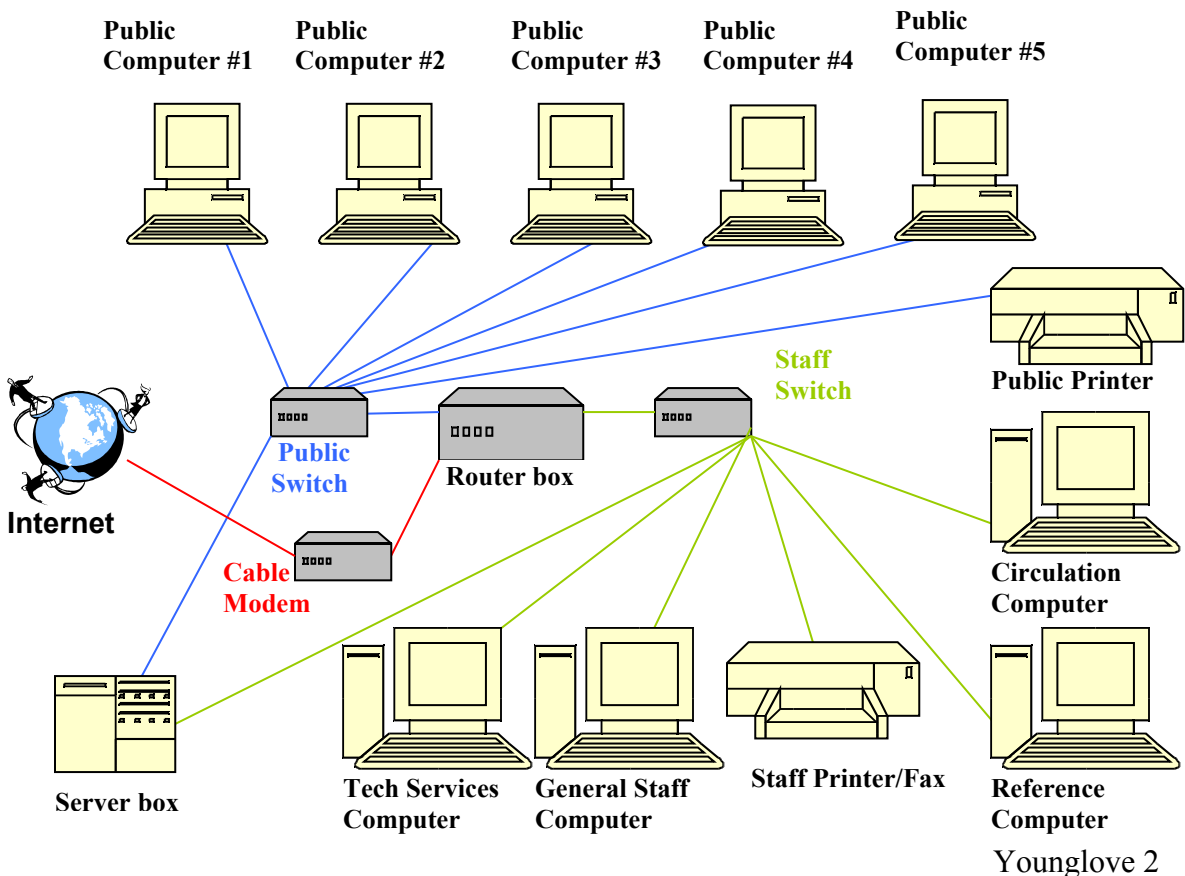
For skill and knowledge building workshops:

- * Staff training in how to set-up and run computer education workshops
- * Enough public Internet computers to ensure that 3 computer stations could be in use for a class while 2 remain free for public use
- * Standard windows operating system and MS Office software for classes

For reference support and increased staff productivity:

- * 4 staff computers: 2 to replace current cataloging and check-out computers, an additional computer for reference service, and a second staff computer for tech services and library projects
- * 2 networked printers: one for the public and one for staff
- * Network connectivity for all computers and printers
- * Internet access for all the computers
- * File sharing ability between staff computers
- * Ongoing tech support by staff and for staff

Diagram of Proposed Computer Network

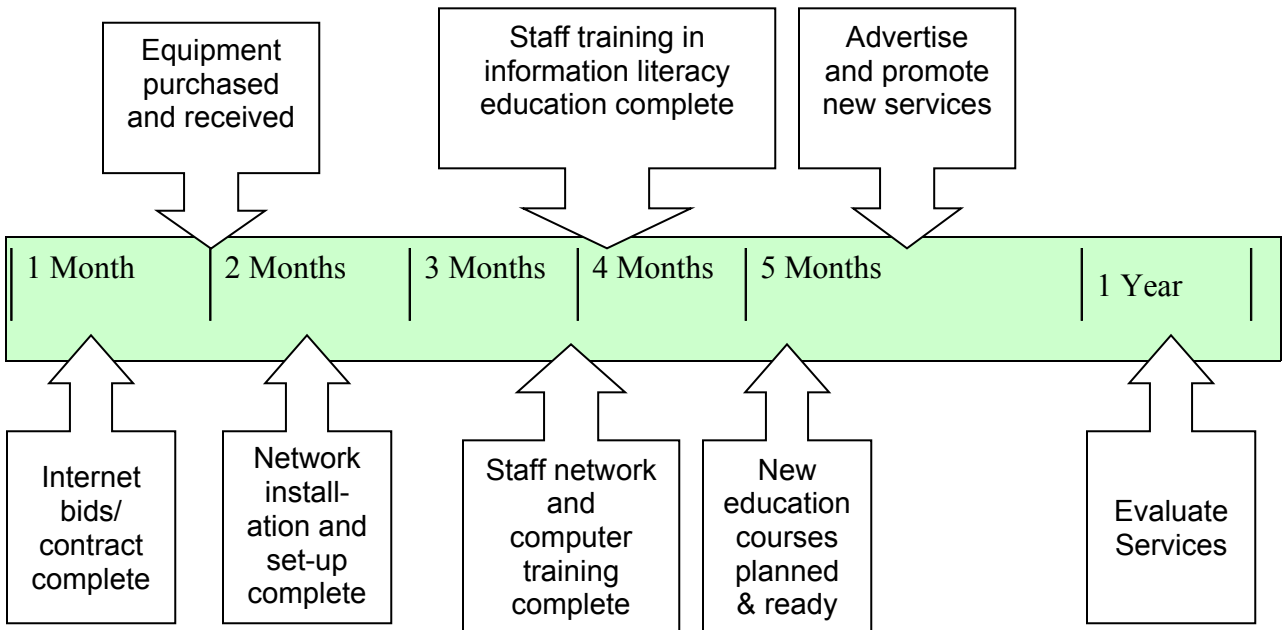


This proposed setup would have two internal networks (one public and one staff) and one external network to access the Internet. The server would allow file sharing among staff computers but not public computers. It would also make it possible to run DeepFreeze, a software that prevents patrons from tampering with computer settings. A computer loaded with the software pfSense, an open source firewall operating system, can act as a router between the two networks. With the aid of two multi-port switches, the router can keep the three networks separate.

Available resources

Although IPL is limited in its current funding, it does have enough money in its budget to cover the continuing costs of monthly DSL service and basic product tech support. In addition, the library director, who intends to serve as project manager for this technology implementation, has a positive record of success with prior computer ventures -- such as her establishment of the GreenLeaf Network Program for UrbanGrowthTots in 2003. The library board suggested and supports seeking grant money to fund this project for Illona. In addition, two staff members, one full time and one part-time with a past interest in computers (our full time staff member has previously created web pages and installed a home network) have stepped forward to be trained as computer and network troubleshooters, should PLTCG decide to fund our grant request. In this way, IPL is prepared to execute and support the requested hardware and software into the future. We have carefully selected materials and services to last as long as is possible in today's rapidly changing world of technology.

Timeline



Budget

Item	Description	Cost
Hardware:		
5 public computers	HP Compaq dc5700 Small Form with Windows XP OS	\$2895.00 (\$579.00/ea.)
4 staff computers	HP Compaq Business Desktop dc5700 - Core 2 Duo E4400 2 GHz with Windows XP OS	\$3107.96 (\$776.99/ea.)
9 staff monitors & 1 server monitor	ViewSonic VA703b 17" LCD Display HP Photosmart C7100 All-in-One series	\$1899.90 (\$189.99/ea.)
1 staff printer	Photosmart C7100 All-in-One series	\$299.99
1 public printer	HP LaserJet 1018 Printer	\$129.00
2 Switches	Linksys 16-Port 10/100 Switch	\$365.98 (\$182.99/ea.)
Router	X86 server with 512 RAM, 1 built in Ethernet card and Raid-1	\$584.00
3 Ethernet Cards	3Com Megahertz 10MBS LAN PC Combo	\$186.00 (\$62/ea.)
2 nd server hard drive	Maxtor 6Y160M0	\$67.00
Server Box	X86 server with 512 RAM, 1 built in Ethernet card and Raid-1	\$584.00
Cabling	Cat 5e 350 Mhz UTP Patch Cable - 100 Foot	\$12.75
DSL modem	Zyxl P660 MBI 4-port ADSL modem	\$39.15
Internet Services:		
ISP monthly fee	Ilonanet - includes DSL line charge	(\$75/mo – library budget)
Installation fee	Qwest DSL installation	\$100.00
Software:		
Deep Freeze	5 licenses for standard packages with one year support	\$179.75
Timer/queue program	Pharos SignUp for Public Library	\$3041.00
Antivirus program	Mcafee Total Protection	\$357.80 (\$178.99/5 PCs)
Router software	Open source pfSense or IPCop	free
Windows Server program	Windows Server Standard with 5 client licenses	\$959.99
Personnel:		
Staff network training for 2 people	WebJunction Networking Essentials Class & WebJunction's Troubleshooting Computer Problems Tutorial	\$100.00 (\$50/person) Free WebJunction Tutorial
Staff information literacy training for all employees	Book: "The Librarian's Internet Survival Guide," & Technology Training for Patrons Webinar	\$29.50/book Free WebJunction Webinar
Total Cost		\$14,938.99

Conclusion

Some basic hardware, software and a little training will position IPL to achieve its technology objectives. Illona offers enthusiastic community support and a library leadership with a strong history of past successes. Once implemented, we anticipate that improvements will last for at least of 5 years and that staff will be able to maintain the computer network themselves with minimal ongoing training and outside tech support. With investment from the Public Library Technology Grant Council, IPL could increase public access to the Internet for the poor and under-served, offer computer classes to the public, begin providing basic reference support, and dramatically increase staff productivity.