

System-Wide Technology Initiatives

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Ongoing Initiatives	Tech Training	After developing a list of training topics with input from Grace and Brooke, I fleshed out each topic with the important concepts staff should learn. The next step is to source existing training material on the topics, and identify gaps where material will need to be created.
	Community Volunteer Income Tax Program (CVITP)	IT has agreed to provide us with the next four Windows 10 laptops they decommission, as our current Windows 7 laptops will stop receiving security updates from Microsoft on January 14, 2020. The new laptops will need to be configured to meet the program's requirements. Having four will allow us to offer the program in an additional location, which will most likely be in Chesley.
	Harry Potter Kano Wand	We have ordered three of the Kano Harry Potter Wands with a plan to purchase five in total. These are designed to teach basic coding, logic, and to allow the user's creativity an outlet. They may also integrate with additions to our escape room kits.
	Tech Kit Curriculum Linking	Nancy Kuhl and I will be updating the staff guides for our technology program kits to include linkage with Ministry of Education curriculum learning goals and outcomes. Staff guides for the kits will also be added to the team site.
	Museum tech appearances	I've scheduled two appearances at the Bruce County Museum and Cultural Centre this summer to demonstrate our robotics and lendable tech items. The first is complete and was well received. The second is August 22. These programs are part of a reciprocal programming agreement with the museum.

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Completed Initiatives	Tablet Kit	The Android tablets were removed from the Dash and Dot and Sphero kits and used to make two 5-tablet kits. Staff place holds on the tablet kits when they hold tablet-required items. Separating them allows us to add more tech kits without needing to purchase tablets for each.
	Conversion Station	<p>The conversion station has had DeepFreeze installed and configured. This ensures that no patron data is saved, and that the computer is returned to a default state after each use.</p> <p>The VCR for the conversion station suffered a failure. A replacement was donated to us by former custodian Don Ferguson, and the conversion station is up and running again.</p>
	Team Sites and P drive migration	<p>Team sites have been launched for four groups: all library staff, the program committee, management and supervisors, and a Director & Assistant Director site.</p> <p>This involved identifying needed files on our shared storage and migrating them to the appropriate sites. Access to the P drive has been restricted to three HQ staff, and all staff now use the team sites to share documents.</p>
	Society of United Energy Professionals Grant Approval	Our grant application to the Society of United Energy Professionals for \$1128.51 for the purchase of new cubelets was approved, and we are awaiting the cheque.
	Green Screen	Our Green Screen kit will be ready for staff to place holds on in the next month. The staff guide is nearly complete.

Technology Research/Purchase Ideas	Virtual Reality (VR)	I have been researching the possibilities for a portable VR kit. Several companies produce high-quality wireless VR headsets which can be used to demonstrate to entertainment and creative potential of the devices.
	Day-to-day Lendable Tech	I have been researching the possibilities for lending every-day tech items to those in need, such as charging cables, USB drives, flash memory cards, etc.

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Branch and Outreach Programming	Green Screen Visits	I have visited the Port Elgin and Lion's Head, and the Bruce County Museum with the green screen to demonstrate it to the public, and to familiarize branch staff with it. I will be visiting Tobermory and Mildmay or Teeswater in the coming weeks.
	Wiaraton Back to School	I will be attending a back-to-school event in Wiaraton with Heather McCarron and a variety of our interactive tech items to demonstrate for the public. I attended this event last year and it was a great success.

Branch Staff Training and Requests	SRC Beanstack Training	In preparation to use Beanstack as the platform for SRC this year, I conducted training sessions at staff meetings, or during branch hours if necessary, for staff in all municipalities. Feedback and questions from the training helped to produce a smooth-running Beanstack program this summer.
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Upcoming Items	Micro:bits	We received 10 free Micro:bits kits from Kids Code Jeunesse to run children's coding programs. These have been made a lower priority and will be prepared for staff use in the fall.
	Forest of Reading Beanstack	Nancy Kuhl and I have begun planning to run the OLA classroom reading program Forest of Reading using Beanstack. Nancy discussed the idea with the Program Committee, and I have started building the program. It will be discussed again with the Program Committee.
	Fall and Winter Beanstack	Lessons learning from our kid, teen, and adult summer reading Beanstack programs will be used to guide decisions on Beanstack reading challenges offered through the fall and early winter. Participants in the adult summer reading program have logged well over 400 completed books, and this is a program structure we may return to for a long-term program starting in the fall.

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	Fall fairs	I will be attending the Wiarton, Arran-Tara, and Tiverton fall fairs with the respective branch supervisors to promote library services and lendable tech items.
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