System-Wide Technology Initiatives

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4ᵗʰ Quarter 2018

Ongoing Initiatives	Tech Training Review	During July, August, and September, branch staff were asked to log all requests for tech assistance they received. This covered everything from help printing, to attaching items to email, to downloading eBooks on tablets. This was the first step in evaluating how we offer tech help to the public, and how I can better equip staff to serve customers in this area. An overview of the results is shown in the graphs named "Graph 1 - Patron Requests by Problem Description", "Graph 2 - Total Patron Requests By Month", and "Table 1 – Patron Requests By Branch."
	Tablet Use Review	Previously when we purchased new robotics kits that required tablets, we purchased tablets as well. In the case of the Dash & Dot and Sphero kits, this added more than $2,500 to the purchase price of the technology and required us to buy more expensive travel cases for them. I am investigating separating the tablets from the robotics kits and making them a separate item. In this new system, staff would check out a tech kit and a tablet kit if needed. We would establish two new kits, each with 5 Android tablets, and include the iPad program kit with its 10 iPads. Because we can now manage these tablets ourselves, I can easily update and install any new apps required. This will lower the price of future tablet-required tech kits, expanding the reach we get for our budget in this area.
	Teen Beanstack – Read The World	Read the World, our ongoing teen Beanstack program, has attracted 16 patrons who have achieved the following milestones: 8,804 minutes read 54 badges earned 4 reviews written

		28 activities completed Each badge earned gives the participant an additional ballot for the prize draw at the end of the program
	Tech Kit and Circulating Tech Item Review	I am reviewing circulation and usage statistics for our tech kits. Our intent is to show funders an estimated reach for some of the more popular items. We want to demonstrate the impact of their funding. Numbers and reach estimates are given in "Table 2 – Usage Statistics for Tech Kits."

Completed Initiatives	Mobile Device and App Management	IT has moved all of our tablets into my control in Azure, the County's mobile device management system. I can now manage the apps deployed to the devices. This will play an important role in how we manage tablets and tech kits. Staff request apps be added to tablets and branch cell phones. I review apps to ensure that they meet our privacy standards and don't expose user data to the public.

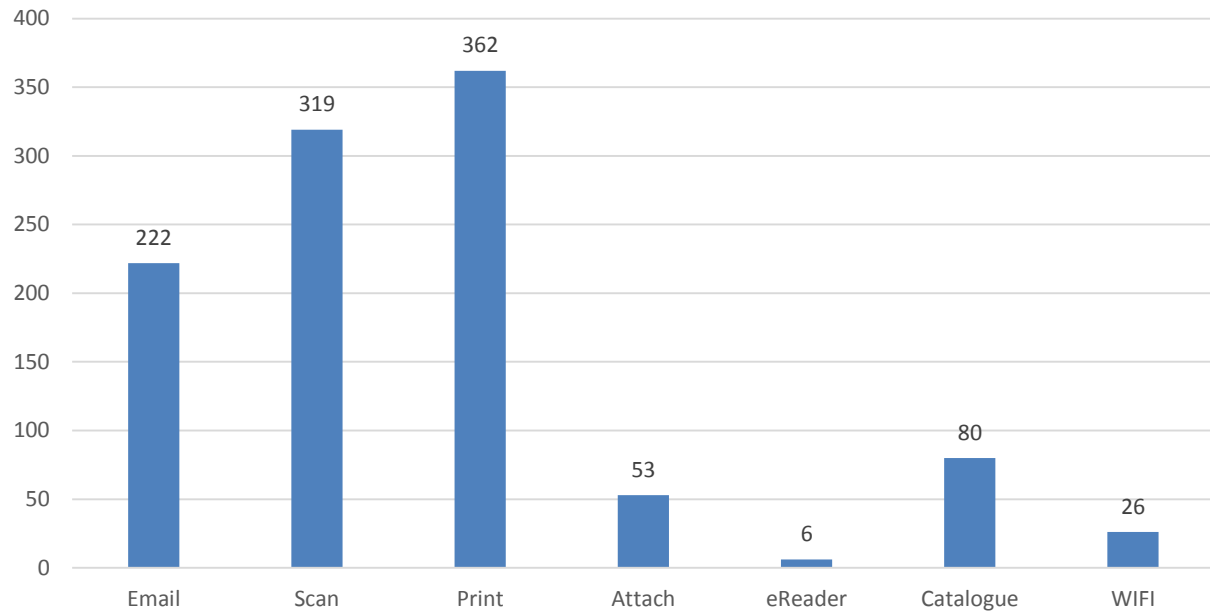| Technology Research/Purchase Ideas	Harry Potter Kano Wand	The Harry Potter wand by Kano is a tablet-connected device that teaches coding skills using the motion of the wand and a drag-and-drop program interface. The programming tools in the app encourage users to develop skills in logical thinking, thinking ahead, spatial awareness and math in addition to introducing them to coding concepts.
	Bloxel	Bloxel is a videogame design platform where users place coloured blocks on a 13x13 grid which are then used to 'translate' the blocks into a tablet-based video game. It offers users the opportunity to learn about visual and spatial design as well as basic coding skills.

Branch Staff Training and Requests	Walkerton – High School Visit and Staff Meeting	In October, I went with Lead Branch Supervisor, Tracey Knapp to the high school in Walkerton to take part in a student-organized event designed to reduce student stress. As part of this, Tracey will be giving me time at an upcoming staff meeting to introduce more of her staff to our various tech kits, making them more familiar with the offerings, and letting them see first-hand how they can use them for branch programming and outreach.
	Mildmay – Petting Zoo and Staff Meeting	Branch Supervisor, Carolyn McKeeman has asked that I come to Mildmay to run a tech petting zoo. This will be a chance for the public to interact with our circulating tech kits in the branch. After this event, I plan to demonstrate these and other tech kit items for her staff from both Mildmay and Teeswater.

Upcoming Items	Canada Reads 2019 - Beanstack	For the upcoming Canada Reads event, Nancy Kuhl and I have planned an event in Beanstack. This will target at adults, but teens are welcome to join. The event will launch on January 28th, and end on March 31st.
	Early Literacy - Beanstack	The early literacy Beanstack program has completed Phase 1 of the project. Lead Branch Supervisor, Kathy Samson and Branch Supervisor Carolyn McKeeman helped Nancy Kuhl and I produce an initial list of 125 literacy activities. These have been added to the program as badges which contain 25 activities, 20 of which must be completed. After completing these 20 activities, users earn one badge. Kathryn Hauck and Cassie wood will join the planning team for phase 2 of the project and will assist in developing 50 new literacy activities to add to the program.

Bruce County Public Library
Digital Initiatives Coordinator Report

Graph 1 - Patron Requests by Problem Description

Email	Scan	Print	Attach	eReader	Catalogue	WIFI
222	319	362	53	6	80	26

Graph 2 - Total Patron Requests By Month

July	August	September
210	831	719
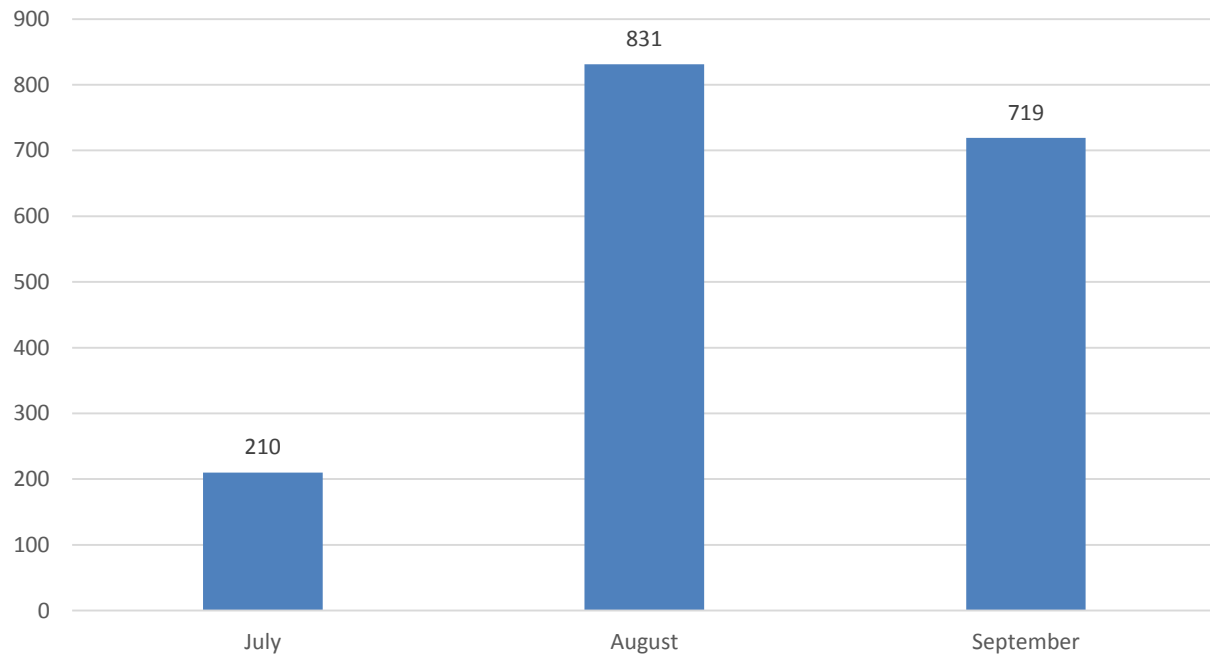
Table 1 – Patron Requests by Branch

Branch	Number of Patron Requests
Cargill	0
Chesley	4
Kincardine	21
Lion's Head	1
Lucknow	1
Mildmay	8
Paisley	0
Port Elgin	788
Ripley	0
Sauble Beach	16
Southampton	844
Tara	3
Teeswater	21
Tobermory	5
Walkerton	8
Wiarton	23
Unspecified	70
Grand Total	**1813**

Table 2 - Usage Statistics for Tech Kits

Year	Month	Item	Checkouts	Renewals	Number per month	Estimated Reach
2015	June	Minecraft	50	7	1.19	250
	December	Ozobots	78	5	2.10	1200
	December	Cubelets	46	3	1.20	800
	December	iPad kit	22	3	0.61	
2016	February	Wii Rockband	4	3	0.20	
	February	Maker Station	4	1	0.14	
	May	Escape Room	16	3	0.61	
	November	Littlebits	17	7	0.96	150
	November	Board Game #1	10	3	0.52	
	November	Board Game #2	4	2	0.24	
	November	Keva Planks	38	6	1.76	
2017	March	Cube blocks	13	12	1.19	
	March	Makedo	9		0.42	
	May	Karaoke	11		0.57	
2018	March	Dash & Dot	8	2	1.10	800
	June	Sphero	2		0.50	
	July	Button-maker	6	2	1.60	100
	August	Strawbees	8	1	2.25	