



FY18 Board Annual Reports: Technology Committee

The Technology Committee met several times this past year to assist in progressing technology-related initiatives and the long-range technology plan. The major technology accomplishment of the year was implementation of the open source Biblionix Apollo ILS to replace the badly outdated Follett ILS.

Apollo installation including preparation, testing, and troubleshooting, was a lengthy process, completed by the end of 2017. Patrons were solicited to update patron contact preferences to allow for email or text notice of materials due, a major feature and improvement of the new system.

This committee assisted with the development, electronic distribution, and results compilation of the patron survey of November 2017. The survey was distributed to all Highwood residents, patrons, and members of library user groups. Accuracy of patron contact data was identified as an issue.

Technology needs for the new meeting room which opened in Fall 2017 were discussed. This included an ability to view and request the meeting room online. The committee investigated the best way to provide electronic event and newsletter notifications to interested patrons. The director offered some initial public computer training classes in the meeting room but there was minimal attendance.

Electronic book offerings overlapped this year as My Media Mall and eRead subscriptions were both in place. For cost reasons the library preferred to consolidate on eRead moving forward. Other periodical electronic access was investigated as requested by patrons.

The library data backup plan was clarified and an opportunity identified to move to offsite cloud backup.

The committee encouraged staff to keep the website content current as that is a common way for residents to obtain information about programs.

The final Technology Plan is not complete but a rough draft is now available. In addition to informing budget recommendations for hardware and software (e.g. reduce number of PCs based on current usage) we identified future areas of opportunity such as remote/wireless printing, improved wireless access in meeting room, and self-checkout.

Our long-time technology consultant and committee member, Jim Knutson, announced he will be moving. The committee began to discuss a transition and is grateful for his service to the library.