Becket Athenaeum Technology Plan

Technology Goals

- Supplement, replace, and upgrade technology with the future in mind. Anticipate growing uses and special groups such as job applicants, small businesses, and distance-learning students.
- Create a less convoluted internal computer network, that is clearly documented, secure, and easy to manage and maintain.
- Serve a broad range of tech comfort-levels.
- Move toward mobile/flexible technology without abandoning stationary/conventional technology. (For example add laptops and tablets, but also have desktop computers with large monitors and full-size keyboards.)
- Increase technology education. (For youth, specifically encourage productive, creative, active use of technology; for adults provide basic computer skill training.)
- Use technology, and associated resources, to support economic development that preserves the rural character of the community.
- Hype the cool factor!

Technology Strategies

- Where possible, upgrade existing PCs so that they are faster and more efficient.
- Add 2 patron MacMinis, 2 iPads, and a laptop for patron use in the library.
- Add an iPod touch, flip videos, a digital camera, and other unconventional (for libraries) technology for patrons to check out.
- Purchase e-readers for the after-school program, and potentially for patrons to check out.
- Create small business lab, with high-end iMac, professional graphics software, large format printer, and technology books of varying complexity.
- Create secure, easy-to-maintain split network with wi-fi, using an Airport Extreme. Go wireless as much as possible, including printers.

Notes

This plan offers a mix of Macs and PCs to address different comfort levels, and because I think it’s important for the kids to be familiar with both. But I will say that I find it so much easier to configure and network Macs, they are much easier for
patrons to use, and they have much better longevity than the PCs which we seem to need to be replaced 5 minutes after installing. Here is the thing about Macs...people think they are much more expensive than PCs, but that’s not exactly accurate. Mac doesn’t make low end computers, so it’s true that you can’t get a $350 Mac the way you can a PC. But to buy a PC that is comparable to the specs and features of a given Mac, you would spend about the same amount of money. It’s a “you get what you pay for” thing. Not everyone needs what a Mac comes with, that’s for sure, and for many individuals a moderate PC makes more sense, but for the purposes of the library, I am so happy with the Macs!