

MONTHLY REPORT

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Subject: Monthly Activity Report - February 2015

- A replacement 46" LED display was purchased with funding from the Foundation and has been installed in the Trove Cave area. It replaced the original display that had its screen damaged. It appears that there are no longer any displays available that provide a serial port, a feature that would have allowed the TV to be controlled from any computer on our network. While it is a minor inconvenience, it is indicative of the increasing obsolescence of the audio/visual technology in The Trove. For example, the current system uses VGA connections to route video, a technology that is rapidly giving way to the exclusive use of HDMI connections to route both audio and video.
- Twenty used computers have been donated to the Library. Although they are five years old, they are much more powerful than the 10-year old CyberPool computers which they will replace. The computers are currently being configured and are expected to be rolled out by mid-March.
- While modifying our proxy server (EZProxy) that provides remote access to our subscription databases for patrons, a problem was discovered with two of our Foundation center databases: Foundation Grants to Individuals Online and Foundation Maps. Neither Foundation Center tech support nor the support community for EZProxy have been able to come up with a solution. I was, however, able to work around the problem by bypassing the EZProxy server. The only disadvantage to this is that patrons who may try to gain remote access to these databases will not receive a page advising them that the databases are only available at the Library.
- On February 17th for approximately a half hour, we, along with all other Westchester libraries, experienced an outage of connectivity to the integrated library system (ILS). The partial outage was specifically with respect to the communication feature that allows third party services and applications to authenticate with and query the ILS. Affected during this time were the selfchecks, the PC reservation system, remote database access, ecommerce and a few of our subscription databases such as Freegal. Access to our OverDrive eBook collection was for the most part unaffected because OverDrive maintains an offline cached database of patron authentication information.
- Consistent with remote access to our own subscription databases (i.e., those not provided by WLS), we confirmed with OverDrive that our eBook collection is for the exclusive use of White Plains Public Library cardholders.
- A list of IT equipment and associated costs was provided in anticipation of budgeting for the 2015-2016 fiscal year. The specified equipment includes a server, wireless access points to improve our wifi coverage and network attached storage to provide greater storage capacity and increase reliability. The latter is becoming increasingly important given the rather large oral history audio files and scanned documents that librarian Ben Himmelfarb has been hard at work producing. I am also investigating the practicality and cost-effectiveness of a cloud-based storage and backup solution.