MONTHLY REPORT

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Dept.   Library Systems

Subject: Monthly Activity Report - October 2018

- The network interface in our backup filesystem server failed on the 26th and was causing sporadic problems for some staff in authenticating to our network. A replacement network interface was installed, and the server was brought back online.

- The Trove selfcheck computer that failed has been replaced by the vendor, Sentry Technology.

- After discovering that email had stopped working on our web server, I corrected the problem and set up system monitor alerts to avoid a similar outage that would otherwise be prolonged. Now, if web or database services fail on the server, a message will be generated to Systems Staff to advise us of the problem. If email fails on the server, the system will generate an SMS text message to my cellphone.

- A few database resource changes were made after contacting the WLS Helpdesk to request authorization of our public network addresses. Both Comics Plus Library Edition and Oxford Islamic Studies were made available once again, and the configuration for PressReader was modified so that the same version is now available at home and in the Library.

- Systems Staff was required to work extra hours over the weekend of the 20th and 21st due to setup and breakdown for the Gala, and for the Latino U FAFSA Bootcamp that was scheduled for the next day.

- Through the TechSoup technology donation program, we purchased Veritas BackupExec, an enterprise backup solution that will work within our diverse server environment of Linux, Netware and Windows servers.

- The Mayor's Office had requested that we add featured Library events to the calendar for the City website. Wishing to avoid double entry of those events, we inquired as to whether the City website could automatically pull featured events using the Library's RSS calendar feed. A representative from the company that hosts the site, CivicPlus, advised us that such is not possible. Instead, I was referred to resources that would allow programming an API (Application Programming Interface) for automatic updating of the City calendar with events from our calendar. I have since received an API Key and a site Token ID for this purpose. I have also signed up for a free trial of a 3rd party subscription service, Zapier, which allows for thousands of integrations between many different systems, including CivicPlus, WordPress, MailChimp, Facebook and Twitter, all of which we use. I had already been considering the use of Zapier for this reason, and the desire to avoid double calendar entry with the City website solidified the decision to evaluate it.

- A high performance laptop was identified and purchased for use by Youth Services Staff in outreach programs. The laptop was specifically chosen for its applicability with VR and gaming, both of which require high processing and graphic speeds.

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