

2023-2025

# Technology Plan



ACTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

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# Introduction

The Acton Public Library serves the community through various means and methods. Technology access and education play a great role in our mission.

This document will serve as the technology plan for the Acton Public Library to guide us on the goals and objectives for continual technological growth and evaluation.

- We will review the strategic plan's technology question responses
- We will discuss needs with patrons using our current technology
- We will reach out to the community at large and listen to their needs
- We will review survey information regarding technology needs for the present and future

## From the Strategic Plan:

As a key institution in the life of its community, it is essential for the library to ensure that it is learning from key constituencies about what is going on in the lives of community members. Through surveys, focus groups, and interviews, community members shared a variety of perspectives on Old Saybrook.

The key themes that came out of the community assessment were:

- Emergence of collaboration between sectors. Community leaders particularly noted that there were beginning to be successful partnerships, at least in the planning and discussion stage, and that momentum should be maintained for the benefit of the town.
- The seasonal nature of the community and associated impact on economic well-being.

As a town whose population swells in the summer, Old Saybrook faces unique challenges and opportunities.

- Changing demographics and generational/economic divides. This theme was exemplified by two survey respondents, quoted below.

“As great as our community is, there is always room for improvement. Although my family is fortunate having resources and opportunities available, some talented youth miss out on opportunities either due to lack of economic resources, language barrier, or family/parent uncertainty living in a culture different from their native culture.” (Survey respondent, age 56-65)

“I sometimes see a divide between newer residents and older ones, haves and have-nots, and is like [sic] to unify everyone over the common purpose of wanting a wonderful place for all.” (Survey respondent, age 36-45)

# Mission Statement

## Our Mission

Acton Public Library seeks to build a welcoming community with free and open access to information and experiences that engage the imagination, inspire learning, and foster the exchange of ideas. (Updated October 12th, 2021).

The Acton Public Library serves the residents of Old Saybrook by providing many options for recreation as well as informational and educational needs. In addition to the traditional library function of providing materials, the Library also sponsors concerts and performances for entertainment, author talks and book talks, lectures, films, and craft programs.

The Acton Library is a member of the LION (Libraries Online, Inc.) consortium. There are about 30 libraries in LION. The catalog contains the full collections of the member libraries which can be searched simultaneously or by individual library.

Survey respondents feel that the library is important to the community

90%

# Technology Vision

## Our Vision

The Acton Public Library's Technology Vision closely aligns with the strategic planning goals. We seek to provide access to current technologies that address community needs now and into the future.

Goal 1. Foster community, peer, and intergenerational engagement

- The library will continue to be a trusted place to learn and access technology.

Goal 2. Satisfy Curiosity & Stimulate Imagination

- The library will provide cutting edge technologies to spark ideation and creativity.

Goal 3. Promote Civic Engagement

- Working on connecting patrons through digital means to collections, and programs.

Goal 4. Support Local Economic Development

- The library will continue assisting in aiding and supporting local business with connectivity, space and business machinery.

Goal 5. Provide Exemplary Service

- The staff will be well trained on current technology and seeking out new opportunities.

Of survey  
respondents feel  
that the library  
provides a trusted,  
reliable place for  
people to learn new  
technologies

85%

# Our Technology Goals and Objectives

## 1

### Create a technology review committee

- Have representation of all staff levels
- Ideally consisting of staff, library consortium, and town technology staff and to be reviewed by the Board of Trustees
- Make Committee in 2023

## 2

### Make all public access computers available to all of our community

- Reducing barriers to use
- Promote guest pass usage on public computers
- Promote use of laptops and wifi hotspots

## 3

### Evaluate and review current installed technologies for relevance and effectiveness

- Using data collected through various means to determine usage and need
- Use State Report data collection for statistical guidance
- Collaborate with Lion Libraries to determine need in this geographic area
- Create survey to gather satisfaction of current users
- Create survey for public input on technology improvement areas

## 4

### Monitor technology trends and implement them if feasible and appropriate

- using professional journals, consulting with other libraries within the consortium and in the state to see what's new and effective
- Reach out to other Connecticut Libraries and small libraries

## 5

### Provide staff with necessary training opportunities to remain current and comfortable in technology

- Finding and enabling training opportunities for staff to stay current and ahead of what's new in technology
- Use ALA, CLA, CLC memberships for professional development opportunities
- Allow each staff member time off desk for training

## 6

### Provide hands on, one-on one and group learning opportunities to help our patrons learn the skills they need to become digitally literate

- Continuing to expand on the current offering of training for individuals and groups as needed
- Offer classes on monthly basis
- Expand outreach hours to Estuary
- Train another staff member to assist with one-on-ones
- Provide post class surveys to collect user satisfaction

Inventory	Quantity	Replacement Plan
Staff Desktops	12	Lion/2 a year
Staff Laptops/iPads	17	TBD
Public Computers	22	Lion schedule
OPACS	4	Lion replaces with older
Self-Checkout	1	TBD
Public Print Station	1	Envisionware Maintenance
Staff Printers	2	Town Maintenance
Hotspot (checkouts)	3	TBD
Scanner	1	TBD
Webcams	2	TBD
Public Laptops (checkouts)	3	TBD
Projector	1	TBD
Security Cameras	9	TBD
Large TV/Cart	1	TBD
3D Printer	1	TBD
AWE Stations	2	Evaluating new product

# Conclusion

The Acton Public Library plans on helping the community with its technology needs in the future as it has in the past, with dignity and flexibility. The library uses it's budget to connect the community with as many information resources as possible, in a thoughtful manner and this includes digital items.

Using the goals and objective set forth in this technology plan, the library has a path it can follow for the near future and will continue to assess and align with the communities needs.

