

TechSoup for Libraries

The screenshot shows the TechSoup for Libraries website. At the top, the logo features a hand holding a flame above the text "techsoup for libraries". To the right, the tagline "Learning and resources for libraries." is displayed. A navigation menu includes links for HOME, GET PRODUCTS, COOKBOOKS, LEARN & SHARE, LIBRARY SPOTLIGHT, BLOG, and ABOUT US. Below the navigation is a search bar. The main content area is titled "TechSoup for Libraries has what you need:" and is divided into two sections: "Learn & Share" and "Get Donated Technology". The "Learn & Share" section includes three sub-sections: "Cookbook" (with a download icon and text "Maintain and support your computers"), "Spotlight" (with a radio wave icon and text "Read or listen to an article about a"), and "Webinar" (with a computer monitor icon and text "Participate in online"). The "Get Donated Technology" section contains a text box stating: "In these tough economic times, TechSoup's product donation program can help stretch your library's budget. Products are available to all public libraries that are listed in the IMLS database and/or have a valid 501(c)(3) nonprofit status. Learn More". To the right of the main content is a "Latest Blog Post" section with the title "Participate in 2009-2010 Public Library Funding & Technology Access Study" and a date of "14 Oct 2009 - 11:54am | Stephanie Gerding". Below the main content is a "Library Spotlight" section titled "Two in One: An Academic and Public Library" with a sub-heading "JUST IN: Read about Chad Mairn, an Information Services Librarian in Florida. His facility hosts both an academic and a public library, offers courses based on patron interest, and creates such innovative resources as a digitized music collection. Chad is in the Spotlight!". At the bottom of the main content area is a "TechSoup for Libraries Photos" section with a "flickr" logo and a row of photo thumbnails. A large red banner with white text is overlaid across the middle of the page, reading: "Learn from the Experience of Others. We hunt down good ideas so you don't have to reinvent the wheel." The footer of the website contains the following text: "TechSoup for Libraries is an initiative of TechSoup Global, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Funding for TechSoup Global's MaintainIT Project came from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Site by Floatleft | Login". The TechSoup for Libraries logo is also present in the footer.

<http://techsoupforlibraries.org>

TO DO:

Save money

Save time

Smart Solutions from

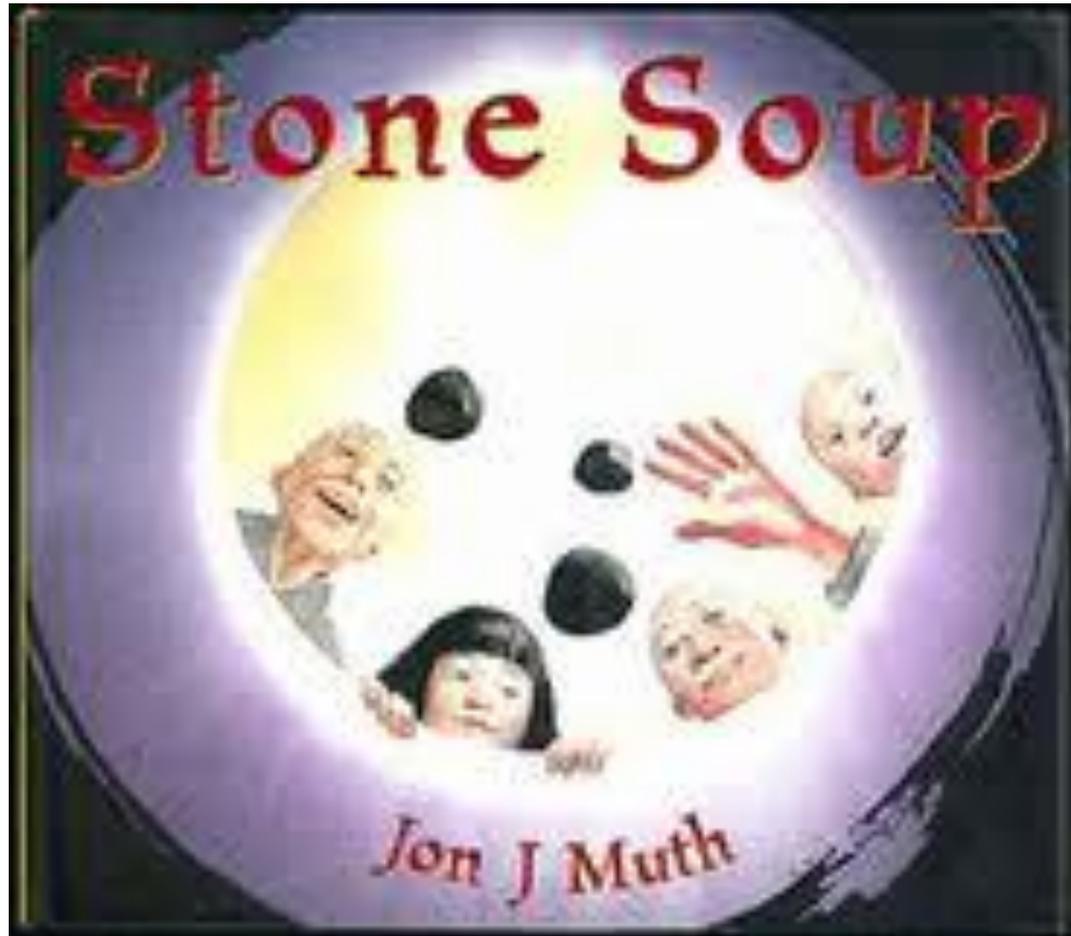


techsoup
for libraries

TechSoup is a nonprofit with a clear focus: providing other nonprofits and libraries with technology that empowers them to fulfill their missions and serve their communities.



Once upon a time...





OPEN
FUNDING
SECURITY
ACCESS
CHECKOUT
WIRELESS
TECHNOLOGY
SOCIAL
DEPLOYING
INSTALLING
MANAGEMENT
NETWORKING
BROADBAND
ADVOCACY
COMMUNICATION
ISSUE
DESK
TRACKING
GAMING
BLOGGING
TROUBLESHOOTING
MAINTAINANCE
WEB
VIDEO SUPPORT
VOLUNTEERS
SOURCE
TIME
LIFE
SECOND
TRAINING
GRANTS
LAPTOP
PUBLIC HELP
GHOST

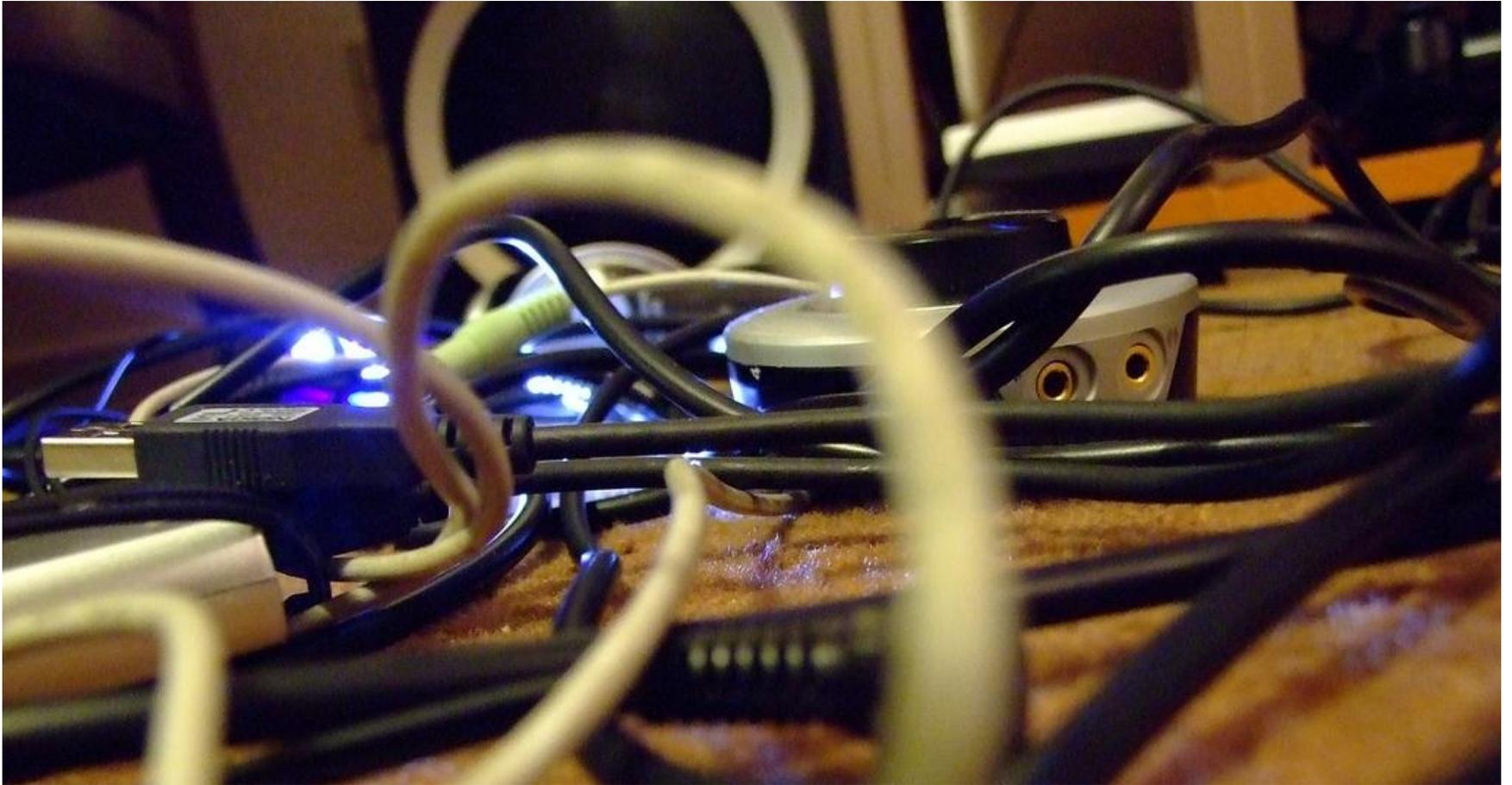
“People do stuff that matters. To them. To their community. How do we share that?”

When you put communities together, amazing things happen. A delivery channel with trusted partners. That is valuable. That works.”

That is TechSoup.



What's your tech challenge?



techsoupforlibraries.org = techie goodness

FREE **content**
FREE **events**
FREE **resources**

+

DONATED
Products
(save 80-90%)

Cookbook **Spotlight**



Webinar **Newsletter**



TechSoup for Libraries

Listen

Share

Learn



What might be

“that’s nothing”

to you may be an

“aha!”

to someone else.

Have YOU used TechSoup?



Donated Products

webinar & phone conferencing *

staff scheduling * refurbished computers * financial management *

keyboarding for patrons * educational software * photocopiers *

MICROSOFT * web site design * graphic design video

cameras * virus protection * label makers * donor management *

SYMANTEC * GIS (mapping) * Wikis ADOBE * hard drives

* remote desktop * firewalls postage machines * enterprise

applications telephony * computer-based courses

It doesn't matter how many resources you have.



If you don't know how to use them,
it will never be enough.

Since TechSoup Global was founded in 1987,

- Distributed over **9.7 million** technology products to more than **183,000** libraries and nonprofits
- Enabled libraries and nonprofits to save more than **\$3.1 billion**





Register for Product Donations



Get the Tools to Train and Educate

For nonprofits, libraries, and their constituents, training is essential to keep knowledge and skills up to date. Whether your organization is training its own staff in nonprofit management, or teaching others technical skills, TechSoup can help you get started.

Check out our resources.

How to Join

How to Get Donations



1. Sign Up

Become a member and participate in our community blog and forums.



2. Check Donation Eligibility

See the donation programs and products available to your organization.



3. Register or Associate Your Organization

See the donation programs and products available to your organization.

GETTING STARTED IS EASY!

Getting Started with TechSoup



► 1. Sign up

Become a member and participate in our community.

Sign up for TechSoup!



► 2. Check Donation Eligibility

See the donation programs your organization is eligible for.

Most products are available to all public libraries listed in the [IMLS database](#) or with a 501(c)(3) nonprofit status.



► 3. Register or Associate

Search for your organization in our database, or register a new one.

Associate:

- Already registered?
- Get authorized to make donation requests.

Register:

- Enter your information and get qualified to request donations.

After registering your organization, **request a product donation** >



4. Ready to Request Donations?



5. How to Request Donations



6. Check-Out Process



Refurbished Computer Initiative (RCI)

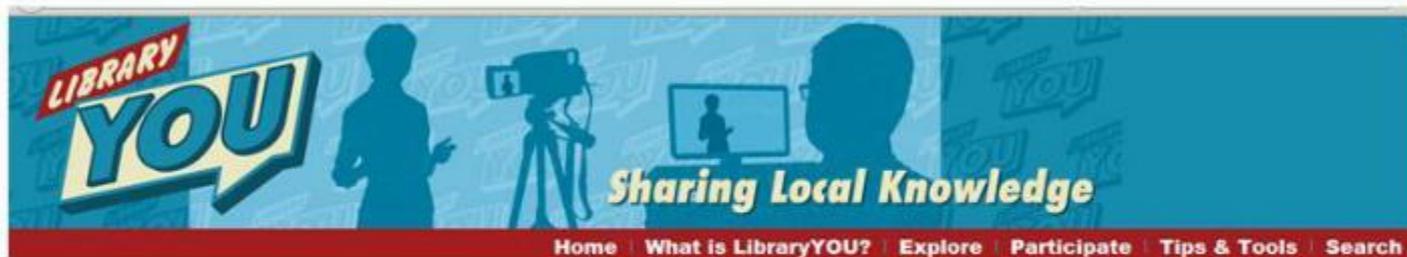
- Refurbished computers
 - Perfect for staff or as a public access computers
 - Desktops and laptops from top manufacturers are available
 - Every computer pre-loaded with Microsoft Windows & Office





Webinars

LibraryYOU



Explore

- > [Library Podcasts](#)
- > [Library Videos](#)
- > [Art & Photography](#)
- > [Business & Investing](#)
- > [Cooking](#)
- > [Computers & Technology](#)
- > [Crafts & Hobbies](#)
- > [Health & Fitness](#)
- > [History](#)
- > [Home & Garden](#)
- > [Science & Math](#)
- > [Self-Help](#)
- > [Travel](#)

Welcome

LibraryYOU, brought to you by the Escondido Public Library, is a project to collect and share local knowledge through videos and podcasts. Watch a video, listen to a podcast, or make your own.

Featured Video



Basic Balloon Animal Creations
by Don Funnell

New Videos



Introduction to Natural Cleaning
by Lisa Robinson

Webinars

- ✓ Cloud Computing: why you should care
- ✓ Story of an open source library
- ✓ Grants 101
- ✓ Basic PC Troubleshooting

all archived!



Flip'n out at your library!



Join the Conversation in the Community Forums



Connect with Our Community

Infographic Tools for Nonprofits and Libraries...

Telling your data visually is now with the help of web-based inf

Nonprofit Tech Forecasts for...

I love year-ahead forecasts a number of them from all over t

How to Back Up Your iPhone or...

An estimated 17.4 million mob activated on Christmas day a research...

Welcome to the New...

Notice anything different? W TechSoup.org with a new l

Featured Blog Posts

Featured F

ARTICLES AND HOW-TOS

Microsoft Office: What Your Org Should Know

Should You Upgrade to Windows 8? Questions to Consider

How to Upgrade to Windows 8

Creating a Social Media Policy

Need a New Content Management System?

A Few Good Blogging Tools

Providing Services with Mobile Devices

Norton Protection: Which One Is Best?

THE TECHSOUP COMMUNITY

Featured Forum Post

Building Trust on a Virtual Team
Posted by **Sasha** >

TechSoup Blog

Microsoft Donations: Download Only
Posted by **jimlynch** >

Featured Forum Post

Useful Life for a Website?
Posted by **MinusHuman** >

TechSoup Blog

Office vs. Office 365 vs. Office Web Apps
Posted by **ginnymies** >



NEW SERVICE FOR GRANTMAKERS
Making international giving easier and more affordable.
More >



FUNDRAISING SOLUTIONS
Learn how to meet the challenges of modern fundraising.
More >



TECHSOUP FOR LIBRARIES
Donated products and learning resources for libraries.
More >

Also in Community

INITIATIVES



Nonprofits in Second Life

TechSoup's Nonprofit Commons in Second Life houses social benefit

FREE DOWNLOADS



We've carefully selected a short list of excellent free software that can be useful at your nonprofit or library.

SUCCESS STORIES



Melinda Storch from The Dougy Center talks about how TechSoup

COMMUNITY



While the TechSoup Community area is a virtual space for the open

<http://www.techsoup.org/community>



Spotlights

Not Knowing the Territory Didn't Stop this Director

How one librarian built bridges to the world from her rural town

Library: [International Falls Public Library](#)

Location: International Falls, MN

Librarian: Diane Adams



In this case study, we're discussing [Edge Benchmark #2: Provide access to relevant digital content and enable community members to create their own digital content.](#)

We're talking with Diane Adams of the [International Falls Public Library](#) in International Falls, MN. It's a small, rural library that serves an area with about 6,000 people, and Diane is the Director.

As the only professional of four total full-time staffers, she oversees all operations and also handles every aspect of programming.

At the end of 2006, the library suddenly had the chance to get \$300,000 from a donor if the director could immediately write a plan on how to spend it. The donor, who had fond memories of time spent there in his youth, wanted the money to go toward helping teens better understand the world to increase their chances of success in life. The library began by improving teen collections and giving them their own space, starting summer reading, and then moved on to buying big-screen TVs and gaming systems.



Diane realized the library could do more to help teens understand the world beyond their tiny rural town, and that the Internet could help. Prompted by activities that helped her daughter build a dream and head to an out-of-state college, Diane steered her donation money toward multimedia. She bought video cameras and still cameras, along with a Mac and software to edit photos, video, and audio. She started classes to teach any interested community members how to use these tools so they could borrow the



Spotlights

Queuing up learning

A librarian uses creative technologies to provide instruction for patrons and staff

Library: Bellevue Library, King County Library System

Location: Bellevue, WA

Librarian: Amber Slaven

Amber Slaven's first job at [Bellevue Library](#) did not take place inside the library: "I drove our [Techlab](#), which is a Winnebago that's a mobile computer classroom," she told us. Though she's moved on from her gig as a mobile lab driver and instructor—she's now in Adult Reference after recently finishing library school—she's proven a valuable asset to the library in various roles over the past four years. *(To learn more about Amber's time on Techlab, read her [earlier guest blog posts](#).)*



Library-Nonprofit Partnership Finds Opportunity in Scarcity

Library: [Hayward Public Library](#)
Location: Hayward, California
Librarian: Sean Reinhart

How does a librarian end up running a city's community grant programs for nonprofits, housing rehabilitation, and paratransit program, in addition to its public libraries? Budget cuts. And a firm belief that service to their communities is what unites libraries, nonprofits, and other community organizations.

Sean Reinhart is the [Library and Community Services](#) Director in Hayward, California. In the years since Reinhart joined Hayward as a librarian, California (like so many other places) experienced an ever-deepening budget crisis. In response to this budget crisis, Hayward chose to combine their public library and portions of their community services program into a single department beginning in 2009. Sean Reinhart heads up that combined department.





Articles

Written for the “accidental techie,” not IT

- [Creating a Social Media Policy](#)
- [Norton Protection: Which One Is Best?](#)
- [Microsoft Office: What Your Org Should Know](#)

ARTICLES AND HOW-TOS

[Microsoft Office: What Your Org Should Know](#)

[Should You Upgrade to Windows 8? Questions to Consider](#)

[How to Upgrade to Windows 8](#)

[Creating a Social Media Policy](#)

[Need a New Content Management System?](#)

[A Few Good Blogging Tools](#)

[Providing Services with Mobile Devices](#)

[Norton Protection: Which One Is Best?](#)

THE TECHSOUP COMMUNITY

Featured Forum Post



Building Trust on a Virtual Team

Posted by [Sasha](#) >

TechSoup Blog



Microsoft Donations: Download Only

Posted by [jimlynch](#) >

Featured Forum Post



Useful Life for a Website?

Posted by [MinusHuman](#) >

TechSoup Blog



Office vs. Office 365 vs. Office Web Apps

Posted by [ginnymies](#) >



NEW SERVICE FOR GRANTMAKERS

Making international giving easier and more affordable.

[More](#) >



FUNDRAISING SOLUTIONS

Learn how to meet the challenges of modern fundraising.

[More](#) >



TECHSOUP FOR LIBRARIES

Donated products and learning resources for libraries.

[More](#) >



Cookbook Technology Guides

The Joy of Computing
Recipes for a 5-Star L

The Joy of Computing
Planning for Success

The Joy of Computing
A Cookbook for Small and
Rural Libraries



Quick Downloads

- > [Planning for Success Cookbook \(pdf, 3.02 MB\)](#)
- > [Planning for Success Toolkit \(pdf, 1015 KB\)](#)

Printer Friendly

- [Planning for Success](#)

Keep it **green** onscreen: consider the environment before printing.



Cookbooks offer:

Wireless Acceptable Use Policy Samples

- George F. Johnson Memorial Library
<http://www.st-charles.lib.il.us/contact/wireless/wireless>
- Morton Grove Public Library
<http://www.webrary.org/Inside/polwifi.html>
- Austin Public Library
<http://malford.ci.austin.tx.us/library/wireless.htm>



Wireless in the Woods

"Not only are we the only people in town with broadband access, we're wireless as well in our little library. It's kind of cool. Here we are out in the middle of the woods and you see people sitting around in their hunting clothes with their laptops. We have one student who's staying in town working on her master's degree. She comes in and works online, because she has access to the internet. We've had young people take their hunter's safety training online. We have a trucker who will sit out in the parking lot with his laptop if we're not open and look for jobs online. We have another telecommuter in town who comes in with a laptop and sits here and works."

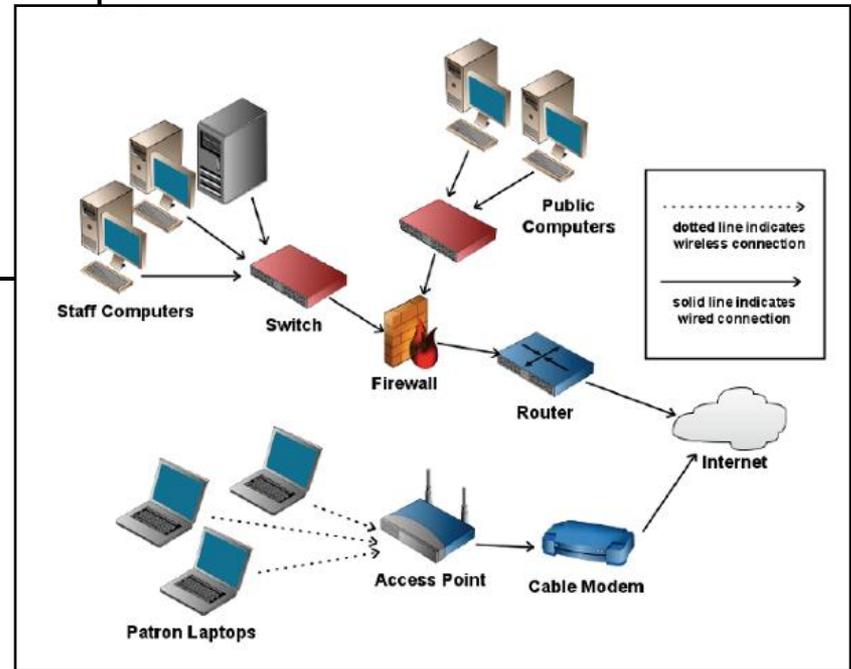
Margaret Patterson
Elk River District Library, Elk River, ID

Wireless Options Comparison

Sorting through the variations of this approach can be confusing. You might want to talk to an experienced network consultant first.

The chart below is an overview of the options discussed

SOLUTION	WHY?	COST	TIME AND LABOR
Access point	Basic wireless connectivity	\$50 to \$80	One to two hours
Wireless gateway	Increased control over your wireless network	\$500 to \$1500	Variable, depending on what features you want, but gateways are more difficult to configure than a regular access point
Hotspot provider	Ease of maintenance	\$500 to \$1000 startup cost and \$50 per month	Depends on your package, but providers often perform all setup and troubleshooting for you and your patrons
A second Internet connection	Improved security	\$25 to \$50 per month	One to two hours
A firewall with separate VLANs	Improved security	\$500 to \$1500	Variable, but firewalls are complex devices, and you may need outside help to configure it properly





Blog



A fund raising success story:

6 Feb 2009 - 12:23pm | Bess Haile

Tags: Bess Haile Essex 5

If the first 5 weeks

some time



Migrating to Koha

2 March 2011 - 12:15pm | by **Margaret Miles**

Tags: [bywater solutions](#) [guest series](#) [Koha](#)

Plumas County Library started investigating migrating to Koha. The Plumas County Cooperative Library System obtained a grant that provided a year of support. With support costs on our current system in the favor of finding a cheaper alternative. The crucial part was getting everything we needed to do.

Our library has about 100,000 items, four automated systems, and three that are not automated. We have floated our collection rotation. I am not a techie, and we were fortunate to get the technical assistance provided by [Bywater Solutions](#). They were great at helping us with everything we needed.

Cheryl Gould from [InfoPeople](#) provided us with a great all-day all-staff training one month before we went live, and Bywater gave us a test database with our own data so we could practice and experiment with cataloging records to Bywater was similar to uploading to OCLC. There were a number of reports that we needed to run--in order to get all the borrower information. We were even able to run reports to migrate our data.

When we first "went live" on January 3, we noticed an interesting glitch: all library cards had expired. We experienced it that morning!

Bywater was able to correct this problem and several other small issues quickly and easily, so we were checking books in and out, and showing patrons how to search our new catalog.

The ultimate plan is to create a cooperative catalog with the other northern California libraries. This will happen sometime after the third library has completed its migration in March. We already have a plan to migrate our data to Koha.



Meadville Public Library's OSS Resources for Libraries:

start | **Recent changes** | **Search**

What We Use

Customizing Ubuntu for Public Computing

More info on our Koha Installation

PALA 2009 Open Source Panel

<http://meadvillelibrary.org/os>

Library Stories

Better together: benchmarks and advocacy

28 July 2011 - 8:30am | by **Ariel Gilbert-Knight**

Tags: **advocacy benchmark computers measure patbenchmark public access technology Stacey Aldrich**

What would you think about a tool that:

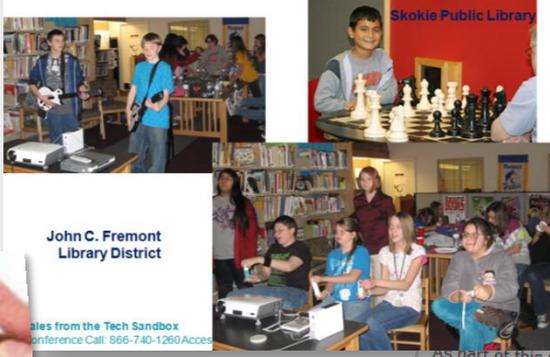
Sign up to receive updates via **RSS**

Follow TechSoup for Libraries on **Twitter** Sign up for our **monthly newsletters**.

Blog tags

bookmobile broadband BTOP GreenTech guest series MaintainIT Surdna technology techsoup training **webinar** webinars more tags

Gaming in the Library



Creates a common language for discussing public libraries' and public access technology's role in supporting community goals

lear, achievable and measurable standards for public access technology for libraries of all sizes

ts strategic planning, budgeting and advocacy processes

is an extra layer of legitimacy and authority to library technology discussions

ou find new and clearer ways to tell your library's story

nt to use that tool? How could it benefit your library? What would help you make the most of the tool? And what kind of

you think there might be in implementing it? That's

ifornia public librarians have been discussing recently,

ffort to understand how best to implement the **Public Access Technology Benchmarks (PATB)**.

As part of this process, two focus groups were held this month, one in Southern California and one in Sacramento. Sarah and I were lucky enough to attend last week's session in Sacramento, along with about 35 representatives from California public libraries. I also got to meet Stacey Aldrich, the California State Librarian (for a library fan like me, this was awesome, like meeting a rock star).

The compiled results from both focus group sessions were presented at a webinar held on Monday, July 25. The archived webinar is



#TSDigs



Broadband: Stories from the Field

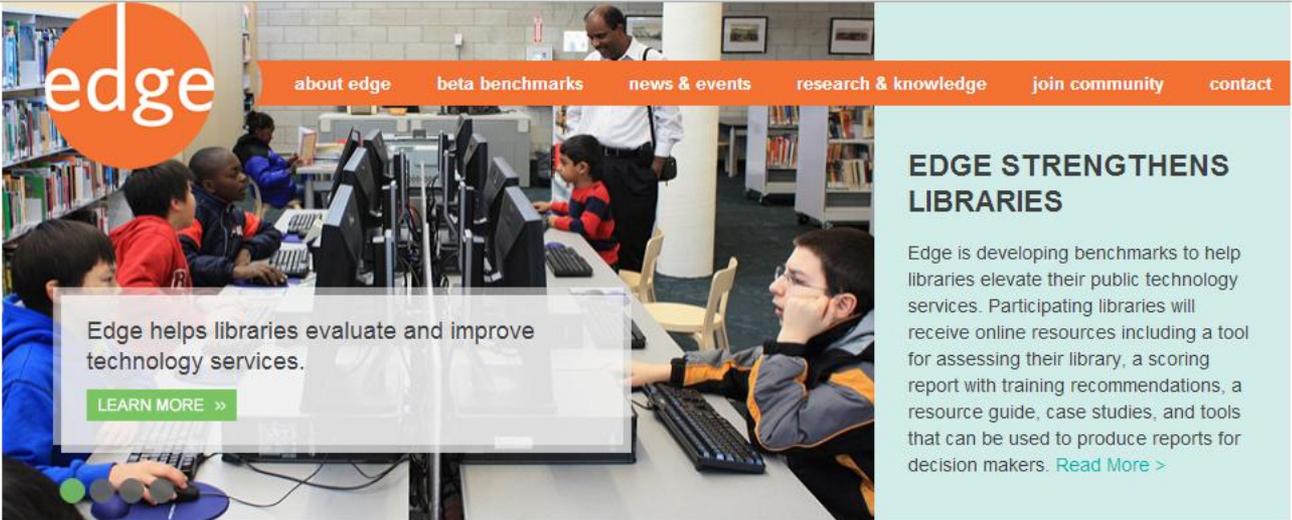




**Where People Connect,
Communities Achieve**

Best Practices → Improved Services

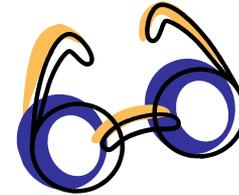
Benchmarks will help library staff understand **best practices** in public access technology services for their communities **and determine the steps** they need to take to **improve those services.**



The screenshot shows the libraryedge.org website. The top navigation bar is orange and contains the following links: [about edge](#), [beta benchmarks](#), [news & events](#), [research & knowledge](#), [join community](#), and [contact](#). The main content area features a large image of children using computers in a library. Overlaid on this image is a white box with the text: "Edge helps libraries evaluate and improve technology services." Below this text is a green button that says "LEARN MORE >>". To the right of the image, there is a teal sidebar with the heading "EDGE STRENGTHENS LIBRARIES" and a paragraph of text: "Edge is developing benchmarks to help libraries elevate their public technology services. Participating libraries will receive online resources including a tool for assessing their library, a scoring report with training recommendations, a resource guide, case studies, and tools that can be used to produce reports for decision makers. [Read More >](#)"

<http://www.libraryedge.org>

We couldn't do it without YOU!



**Look for
this link on
the website!**

Have a story to tell?

Tell us about your daily routine maintaining public computers, or a moment when you were particularly proud. Don't forget that what might be "that's nothing" to you may be an "aha!" to someone else!

Get the Most Out of TechSoup

Find a range of technology services to help your library!

What will you do?

- Request donated software and hardware
- Download our free library technology Cookbooks
- Read library spotlights
- Attend upcoming webinars and view archives
- Read our blog and twitter feed
- Sign-up for our monthly newsletter
- Read helpful articles in our Learning Center
- Learn from others in our Community Forums

**Reprint Our Articles Without Asking.
Seriously.**

techsoupforlibraries.org

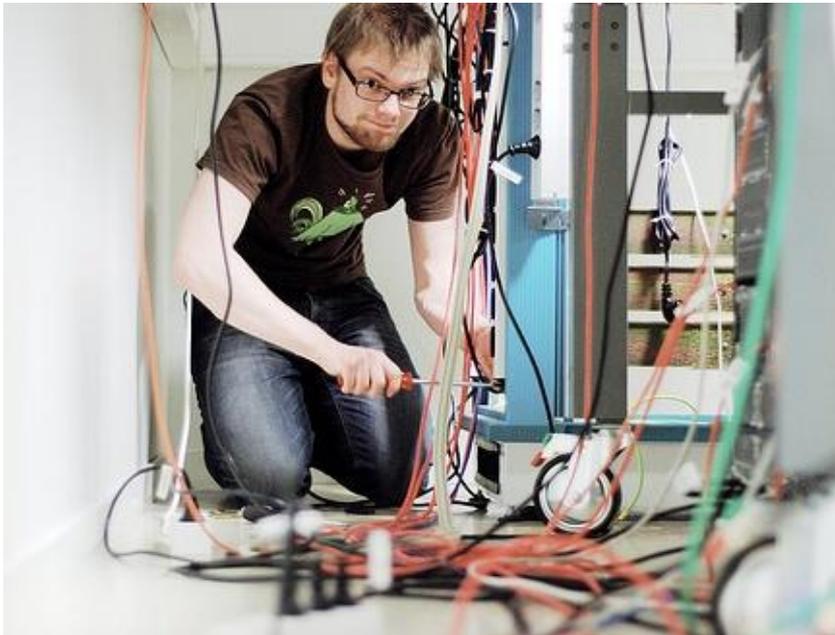
Yes, we do provide the recipes!

<http://recipes.wiki.techsoup.org>



Learn and Share!

You aren't in this alone.



Cookbook



Maintain and support your computers

Spotlight



Read or listen to an article about a library

Webinar



Participate in online training or view an archived session

Training Resources



Resources for use in trainings & presentations

Newsletter



Receive updates each month

Tell Us!



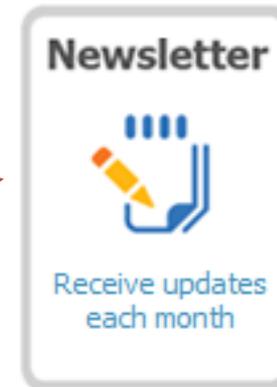
About your library

Keep up-to-date!



- Sign up for the monthly newsletter

Look for
this link on
the website!



- Read the blog



Learn from the Experience of Others

You don't have to reinvent the wheel.



We help libraries support public access computing.

techsoupforlibraries@techsoup.org

