

Technology Fee Full Proposal Template

Title: Circulating Netbooks to Students for Use in the Library

Proposer: Diane Bruxvoort, Assoc Dean for Scholarly Resources and Research Services
dbruxvoort@ufl.edu; 535 Library West, PO Box 11700, Gainesville, FL, 32605
Phone: 352 273 2505; Fax: 352 302 7251

Sponsoring Organization: George A. Smathers Libraries

Purpose and Specific Objectives: To provide reliable and flexible computer access within the Libraries.

Along with support for class work, a safe haven, and group study opportunities, the George A. Smathers Libraries provide technology for UF students. Hundreds of students use the computer labs and information commons in the Libraries each day, and often have difficulty finding an available computer. The Libraries currently have a program to check out laptops to students for use in the building. This allows them to use the group study rooms, or find a quiet corner to concentrate while online or working on a paper. The program has been so successful that the computers and batteries are quickly wearing out. The batteries have been removed for recharging so often they no longer fit properly, and if they do fit they hold a charge for only a fraction of the time of a new battery.

This proposal is for purchase of a set of netbooks for circulation in Library West as a pilot to see if all of the circulating laptops could eventually be replaced by netbooks. Tablets are not being considered at this time because of the poor quality of the word processing available to date.

Benefits of a netbook over a laptop:

- Less expensive than full size laptops, lowering the initial costs and replacement costs.
- Because they are smaller they hold a charge longer.
- More portable – less damage expected.
- Used primarily for searching and word processing, the two tasks students cite most for their in-library use of a laptop.
- The charging station takes up less space at the circulation desk.

Impact/Benefit:

Student need for access to technology continues to grow. Course assignments require papers, presentations, and group work. Providing access to information is a core service of the Libraries, and in this electronic age, this requires us to constantly refresh and consider new technologies. The laptop circulation program is an effective and popular service, but is straining under the weight of its own success. Netbooks are a viable option for revitalizing and even expanding the program, providing needed instructional technology to students across campus. This pilot would be in Library West, but if successful netbooks would eventually replace laptops in the Marston Science Library and the Education Library, and could even expand to the Music, Journalism, and Architecture and Fine Arts Libraries.

Additional desk top computers cannot be added to the libraries without sacrificing much needed user seats. Circulation of netbooks would provide a means for the Libraries to continue to expand services to all students of the University of Florida.

Sustainability:

The Libraries are committed to sustaining a circulating laptop program at Library West as well as at the Marston Science Library. If this pilot proved to be successful, netbooks would replace laptops at each location. Ongoing funding for additional sets and replacements within a three year cycle would come from Fines and Fees, a fund that generates approximately \$90,000/year and is used for equipment and services which directly benefit students.

Timeline:

August, 2011	Funding Awarded
August, 2011	Laptops and charging station ordered.
September, 2011	Library IT dept. receives and configures netbooks.
October, 2011	Branch receives and begins to circulate netbooks.
Ongoing	Statistics are kept on how often the netbooks circulate, and how often IT is called for a maintenance problem.
March 2012	Obtain IRB approval to survey users.
April 2012	Survey users
May 2010	Report on viability of the program for 2012-2013.

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Phone: 352 273 2505; Fax: 352 302 7251**BUDGET**

Item	Number	Cost	Total
Dell Latitude 2120 Netbook	24	\$719.00	\$17,256.00
Managed Mobile Computing Station Cart	1	\$3899.99	\$3,899.99
			\$21,155.99

Technology Fee Full Proposal Template Sponsor Signature Form

Title:	Associate Dean for Scholarly Resources & Research Services
Proposer's Name:	Diane Bruxvoort

Note: By signing this form the sponsor is making a commitment to support the project. This may include providing startup, recurring or equipment replacement resources as presented in the attached budget.

Signature of sponsor: College Dean, or Unit Director, or VP for Student Affairs.

John C. Russell 4/13/2011
Name and Title Date
Dean of University Libraries

Note: By signing this form the UF IT unit is making a commitment to manage the project if selected for submission of a full proposal. This may include providing startup, recurring or equipment replacement resources as presented in the attached budget.

Signature of managing unit administrator:

This is a Pilot, no recurring cost.

Filipina 4/13/11
Name and Title Date