This past month I've mostly been in a research, planning, and preparation mode. I've spent a good deal of time on the website upgrade. Things are looking very well there. It's been 5 years since the last major overhaul, and it's not nearly so simple as pressing "update" button on your personal computer. There are just a couple more pieces left to work on and test. I should be able to move the new version over to live in the next month or so.

Due to low funds in my capital expenditures line this year, and not knowing the budget situation earlier this year due to the uncertainty about the millage, I have spent very little this year on new gear. This will make for a bit more in purchasing next year. I'm finishing up those plans now and will be calling for a technology committee meeting to discuss things.

Another project I am working on in response to our survey and personal patron interactions is patron printing from their own devices. There are many proprietary solutions to accomplish this in a library setting, though usually costing thousands. In testing at the Coldwater Branch, I have tied in printing from Apple phones and tablets as well as Google's Cloud Print service into our own print release system. This will allow us to offer printing to a wide variety of mobile devices, and even printing from a home desktop computer to pick up at the library. Things are set up in such a way that we won't have to worry about people abusing the service and wasting paper or toner. The next step is implementing this at the branches. I'm hoping to be able to do it almost exactly the same at the branches as at Coldwater, but some concessions may have to be made due to the constraints and resources at the branches. Once print service is up and running smoothly district-wide, I'll announce and promote the service.

In support of the annual Christmas Train event, this year I have coded an online signup page. Starting on Monday, November 24, patrons will be able to sign up on their own for our train. We'll still take calls for people who don't like online registration, but hopefully this will alleviate some of the usual telephone busy signals when signup opens.

I've put an additional camera on the surveillance system at the Bronson Branch to help keep an eye on their bin of Walnuts. Apparently, the squirrels were extra large this autumn.

In the past month we've worked with ESI to squash several little bugs and errors in our Evergreen installation.

Curtis has been doing a great job on the hardware side of things. He's made several branch visits in the past month doing maintenance and has worked up procedures for keeping our desktops up to date. Migrating to Windows 7 changed how we operated in some areas.

Finally, we've been planning the role and responsibilities of the new evening IT assistant and look forward to the increased service and support this position will bring our patrons. I'm sure the service desk staff will appreciate this as well!

Submitted by

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