

Henderson County Public Library District 2023-2026 Technology Plan

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Abstract

The Henderson County Public Library is located in Biggsville, IL, a rural district serving a population of 6,391 residents. The purpose of this 2023-2026 Technology Plan is to provide consistent, updated technology services that respond to the needs of the community. The Henderson County Public Library strives to connect the community to opportunities for growth, inspiration, and discovery and to provide a helpful and welcoming space for everyone to access and enjoy the world of information.

Vision Statement

The mission of the Henderson County Public Library District is to provide materials and services to help residents meet their personal, educational, cultural, and professional needs. The Henderson County Public Library District supports an environment for life-long learning and is dedicated to helping the Henderson County community do that. Technology services in the library are vital to that mission. In addition to the traditional library resources, patrons expect the library to have current, readily available, and extensive technology tools to meet their needs. This includes access to the library's services far beyond the walls of the library.

Summary

The Henderson County Public Library District Technology Plan includes five priorities that work toward providing library patrons with up-to-date devices, content, software, and skills that will meet their information and entertainment needs.

Priority 1: Maintain membership with Resource Sharing Alliance (RSA NFP). Attending trainings as needed for upgrades and new services available.

Priority 2: Maintain current technology equipment, for both staff and patrons. Plan for upcoming equipment replacement.

Priority 3: Continue funding for digital library. Including investigating possible new databases / digital collections.

Priority 4: Investigate new and current library technologies. We need to keep apprised of emerging trends and equipment to better serve our library patrons.

Priority 5: Staff Training. All staff need to be trained in basic computer functions and applications.

Technology Assessment

The Henderson County Public Library District has 13 desktop computers, 6 laptops, 1 color scanner/printer/copier/fax machine, 1 iPad, 2 electric typewriters, 1 color printer, 1 black printer, 1 copier/printer, 1 Microfilm Scanner, 1 CD Repair/Cleaning Machine, and 3 MiFi Hotspots.

The library also owns 1 digital camera, 1 flatscreen TV, 1 overhead projector, 1 portable projector, and various extra equipment (monitors, keyboards, etc.).

At this time, only the 3 Laptops and 3 MIFI Hotspots are allowed to be checked out and removed from the building by patrons.

Henderson county is situated in a rural location. With many of our residents living miles from the library, remote access is a real need. The telephone, fax machine, and computer provide a means for many residents to use the library. Internet services are vital for the public as well as the library staff. The library has five public workstations providing internet access, on-line searching of databases via the Internet and the library's website, an online materials catalog, and wireless access within the library and in the parking lot. We have a library website that allows our patrons to access online databases, community information, remote access to their own library account, as well as library information. In the past we have taught a computer class for our patrons that need more one-on-one help. We support community technology needs by allowing the three portable laptops and three MIFI hotspots to be checked out.

Ongoing Maintenance and System Monitoring

Services for ongoing computer maintenance and repair, as well as network monitoring, is provided by CCS Computers.

Technology Plan Priorities

Priority 1: Maintain membership with Resource Sharing Alliance (RSA NFP). Attending training as needed for upgrades and new services available.

Action Steps

The Henderson County Public Library District will:

- Budget for RSA NFP membership.
- Attend workshops for training.

Priority 2: Maintain current technology equipment, for both staff and patrons. Plan for upcoming equipment replacement.

Action Steps

The Henderson County Public Library District will:

- Maintain records of current technology equipment.
- Budget for future equipment replacement.
- Update the wireless in the building, when needed, to increase reliability and security for the network.
- Create a Technology Replacement schedule.

Priority 3: Continue funding for our digital library collection, both databases and eContent. The library subscribes to four platforms that offer eContent (Alliance Digital Media Library, Axis 360 app for eRead Illinois, Biblioboard Library of Illinois, and Hoopla) as well as maintains access to a language learning app (Mango Languages).

Action steps

The Henderson County Public Library District will:

- Budget for its digital library collection.
- Evaluate existing databases and eContent collection.
- Continue to investigate potential databases and/or eContent collections.
- Continue to promote all our digital collections to patrons and encourage use.
- Digitize microfilm and have it available on Newspapers.com.

Priority 4: Investigate new library technologies. We need to keep apprised of emerging trends and equipment to better serve our library patrons.

Action steps

The Henderson County Public Library District will:

- Stay apprised of new technology and innovation.
- Analyze the potential for our local situation.

Priority 5: Staff Training. All staff need to be trained in basic computer functions and applications, not only to perform their assigned tasks, but also to assist patrons.

Action steps

The Henderson County Public Library District will:

- Budget for staff training.
- Evaluate staff, both existing and new, in computer skills.

Evaluation

The Henderson County Public Library District Technology Plan will be reviewed annually based upon the following criteria:

- The degree to which the priority has been met.
- Input from patrons, staff, and Library Board.
- Statistics gathered from Internet, web page, and computer use.
- Qualitative Data gathered from patron and staff training sessions.
- New technological developments or advancements.