



Trends and Comments from SELCO Staff Tech Planning Conversation *Held January 9, 2007*

1. Why has technology become so important to library services?

- Offers opportunity, particularly for small rural libraries, to open their collections to patrons in ways not otherwise possible.
- It's the way the world does business and libraries are part of that.
- Creates work to save work in other areas. May not result in cost savings but does result in increased service options.
- As technology becomes universal, those who are economically disadvantaged come to the library because that is the only way they can participate in society.
- Technology has not, however, taken the place of books.

2. What advice would you offer SELCO/SELS to be sure to address in the new joint SELCO/SELS Technology Plan?

- Language that allows us flexibility
- Focus on needs, not tools
- Staff consulting
- More staff

3. What new technology have we recently introduced at SELCO or at libraries?

- Technologies recently implemented at SELCO/SELS include:
 - Blogs
 - Instant Messaging
 - Wireless Internet (WiFi)
 - Wireless PC peripherals
 - Staff telecommuting
- Technologies recently implemented for SELCO Online Libraries include:
 - Blogs
 - Wireless Internet (WiFi)
 - Digital Audiobooks
 - Playaways
 - Redesign for Austin Public Library PC Lab
 - Public PC Management (Pharos)
 - WebReporter
 - Custom programming for Willow Creek school online book review system

4. What new technology is being requested at SELCO or at libraries?

- Technologies planned at SELCO/SELS include:
 - New website
 - Wireless projector
 - Storage Area Network
 - Encourage staff at MnLINK and SirsiDynix to resolve interoperability deficiencies
 - Integrate online tools in new ways; for example, mashup of Google Maps to provide library locations and wikipedias to encourage collaboration
 - Children's catalog
 - Spanish-language catalog
 - Online training modules with Captivate and videostreamed continuing ed/training
- Technologies planned for SELCO Online Libraries include:
 - Blogs
 - Social networking (Instant Messaging, online gaming, etc.)
 - Reference via Instant Messaging
 - Patron-owned devices used on library PCs
 - Staff laptops
 - Online reading clubs
 - Additional bandwidth to allow new services
 - Children's catalog
 - Spanish-language catalog
- Technologies requested but not currently implemented
 - Federated searching
 - E-Commerce
 - Software support for new applications
 - PC Leasing
 - New circulation technologies such as remote access (PDAs), wireless barcode scanners, etc.
 - OPAC enhancements

5. What resources do you regularly turn to for technology information?

- Peers
- Conference opportunities
 - Internet Librarian
 - Computers in Libraries
 - Customers of Dynix, Inc.
- Periodicals and other resources:
 - Wired
 - Computers in Libraries
 - Searcher
 - Library Technology Reports
 - Library of Congress publications
 - OCLC publications
 - PC World
- Blogs
 - Lifehacker
 - Tame the Web
 - Stephen's Lighthouse
 - Shifted Librarian

- Gordian Knot
- TechCrunch
- Scobleizer
- Techmeme
- Digg
- Websites
 - Internet Movie Database
 - OCLC
 - Library of Congress
 - Amazon
 - Creating Passionate Users
 - The Register
 - WebJunction
- Radio
 - Future Tense (NPR)
- Podcasts
 - Security Now
 - The Week in Tech

6. What are your expectations for the future? How might SELCO/SELS aid libraries to meet their future technology needs?

- Libraries will expect us to be in the forefront as their communities push them
- Help improve libraries attitudes toward patrons' demands for technology

7. What is SELCO's role in providing technology for libraries?

- Provide leadership
- Teach and consult
- Evaluate technology and make decisions based on practical considerations
- Set the standard for public access computers

8. What skills do you need for working with technology? What role can SELCO/SELS play in assisting libraries with technology learning?

- Basic PC skills
- Website and applications
- Encourage staff participation in SELCO-provide training
- Onsite consultation with SELCO staff

9. Do you feel certain demographic groups need more attention in the region's services and support?

- Libraries with technology challenges such as budgets, training, space
- Challenges may vary depending on type of library
- Seniors
- Limited English speakers
- Teens
- Patrons isolated by geography or poverty

10. What can SELCO/SELS do to help share information about new technology with the library community?

- More site visits
- Checklists for site visits

- Rotating schedule for site visits
- More training opportunities including distance training
- Continue to share information about world of technology beyond the confines of the library world
- Develop additional ways to get SELCO technical information to libraries