

PLAN Innovation Grants – FY 2014-2015

Destin Library

Project: Digital Media Lab

Award Amount: \$7,836

The goal of the Destin Library was to equip a state-of-the-art video and audio production lab for students without access to the area college lab and with limited access to their school labs. Our objectives included providing students with video editing, audio editing, and video and audio production equipment and software otherwise unavailable to them. We also planned to offer training and assistance in video/audio production and editing while encouraging the use of the library by students for educational purposes. Our final objective was to ultimately improve the technological skills of area teens.

The following equipment & software was purchased:

- Four PCs and four monitors, along with peripherals such as omnidirectional microphones
- Adobe Creative Cloud software
- Open source software programs including, but not limited to, Audacity (a non-linear audio editing program), Lightroom (an alternative video editing program), and Blender (a 3D modeling and animation program)
- A camera, green screen and lighting kit
- A sound booth and directional microphone were purchased using outside funding to contribute to the video production capabilities
- A monitor for video production
- Two digital sketch pads

One local business owner who used the lab was impressed with the services offered through the digital media lab. He provided staff with a few tweaks to the software and some suggestions for future use. Two of his three suggestions were implemented. He used the lab for a one-time project and expressed an interest in returning in the future.

Several students who attended the video contest kick-off party expressed excitement over the availability of the lab, especially since use of the school's lab is limited to school hours and can be extremely busy at certain peak times. One student offered some suggestions on open source software and was surprised to find that the programs had already been installed. Students participating in the contest were required to use the lab, and the winner's entry is posted on our YouTube page (<https://youtu.be/ykRGcUNi6CM>).

Franklin County Public Library

Project: App Chat & iPad Story Time

Award Amount: \$9,200

The funding from the PLAN Innovation Grant made it possible to offer iPad Air 2 technology to the Franklin County Public Library community! The project included the purchase of 10 iPad Air 2, One 13" MacBook Air computer, Griffin Tower Docking Station, Apps, and a Kids iPad Kiosk that allows two (2) users to interact with the iPads anytime the library is open.

The Grant Proposal included a program for children ages 2 to 5 with assistance from parent/caregiver to navigate the iPads for the purpose of learning literacy skills, reading skills, sorting, math skills, language, drawing, and music. The monthly program offers a themed program, with a facilitator. The facilitator showed the participants where they should find the app that the program focuses on and what to do next. The app chat was to be a teaching session for the parents while their children listened to the story. This morphed into a different program than was originally envisioned. The parents stayed while their child/children moved their way through their apps independently, and helped if they needed help. The facilitator and the staff person would answer any questions or assisted the participant and their parent if needed.

The app chat actually turned into an adult program that was to introduce iPad apps and extra help in usage. This program was a "Lunch and Learn" program with a trained facilitator who assisted the iPad users who were not novices and taught them more of the possible apps they could use and how to use them. As an added bonus, we were able to purchase a Krayola Kiosk for the library that holds two iPads for children. This will allow for continuous use of the new technology that was purchased through the Innovation Grant Funding.

We have used the iPads in programs for Tweens, which is 8 to 12 year olds who come to the library for a weekly program. We are considering how we could develop more programs for this age group and the iPads currently. We hope to have monthly or bi-monthly iPad Adult classes also.

Families within Franklin County have diverse finances and many people have never used an iPad nor ever had the opportunity to use one. However, there are others who have and do know how to use these types of devices. The Innovation Grant allowed Franklin County Public Library to offer new educational advanced technologies that we could not have afforded without the grant. The people who have come to the program absolutely loved the program and are thrilled that the children are benefitting from use. The kiosk is used almost daily by multiple ages of children, and we continue to update and add new educational and fun apps for all ages.

Gulf Coast State College

Project: Library User Experience Jumpstart

Award Amount: \$7,650

Gulf Coast State College embarked on a 5-year strategic planning cycle in 2014-15. Library-specific strategic planning included goals to improve the user experience through the website and physical spaces. To improve library services and resources in order to better support student success, we requested funding through the PLAN Innovation Grant to hire Aaron Schmidt, a User Experience (UX) Consultant, for a Library User Experience Jumpstart. Goals of the project included proving the value of user research to staff, increasing the library staff's user research skill set, and developing an action plan to create a better user experience.

After the two-day consultation in November 2014 and email follow-up during January, library staff possessed:

- a user research skill set,
- a better knowledge of our users and their needs,
- increased awareness of user perception of the library,
- a plan for improving the design of our website,
- a plan for improving the functionality of our building, and
- a UX vision to guide decisions about library services.

During the process, we measured usage, awareness, expectations, and satisfaction through a variety of methods. We identified strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities to better meet student needs.

Library staff at all levels gained a new user research skill set. We have a better understanding of how our users live (work, study, etc.) and of their needs. We utilized our new knowledge to improve the functionality of our physical spaces and online presence. We also used the information to identify strengths and weaknesses for our college's Five-Year Non-instructional Program Review of the Library, which occurred this year.

After presenting at a PLAN meeting in January and an FLVC Region 1 meeting in April, we have had more than 625 views of the UX guide. Other libraries in attendance are implementing UX projects, borrowing what worked for us and learning from our mistakes.

After all of these changes, more than one student remarked that "something was different," and though they couldn't quite tell what it was, they really liked it.

Gulf District Schools

Project: Typing Agent software

Award Amount: \$675

With Florida transitioning to the Florida State Standards, new assessments are computer-based. Teaching keyboarding has fallen upon our media specialists who lack adequate training in teaching this subject. The generosity of the PLAN grant allowed the purchase and implementation of *Typing Agent*, a comprehensive software program designed to do that. It served two purposes: 1) teach the needed keyboarding skills; and 2) permit the media specialists to once again direct their attention to the successful operation of a working media center. The keyboarding skills learned will not only help ensure success on standardized tests, but will also strengthen research and writing skills.

While the program was only in place the last few months of the 2014-2015 school year, it is already quite evident that it will have a significant impact on students. Most students are already typing with an accuracy rate over 90%! An increase in the number of words typed per minute has already been noted and is expected to rise as the program continues.

On behalf of our students, Gulf District Schools would like to express gratitude for your support and generosity.

Northwest Florida State College

Project: NonTrad2Grad

Award Amount: \$2,223

In an effort to provide technical and research support for NonTrad2Grad, a new student organization, the NWFSC LRC applied for and received a PLAN grant. NonTrad2Grad is for non-traditional students, who are usually beginning college for the first time or after a long absence. The student services the LRC provides to all students, is easily adaptable to assisting non-traditional students. Reaching out to this group of students by providing specific needs instruction and assistance with using current technologies in the LRC can be instrumental in student retention. Funds from PLAN help to fund speakers, seminars, and technological tools that will aid non-traditional students.

Our original plan was to purchase an e-Reader (Kindle, Nook) and a tablet so that we could help NT2G students become comfortable with these technologies. After consideration, we decided that tablets would be more useful, since we do not currently acquire or use materials for e-Readers at the LRC, we purchased four (4) ASUS 10" convertible tablets and two HP 7" tablets (2). The four tablets allow library staff to become familiar with technology and operating systems outside the current PCs and laptops used by the LRC. In doing so they are better able to assist students using tablets. It also allows us to introduce students to tablets and provide instruction in their use. In addition these tablets provide "roving" librarians

the ability to provide reference assistance from any location in the LRC or on campus.

Because we were not able to have seminars and events in 2014-15 we felt that the portion of the grant money set aside for speakers could provide greater opportunities for assisting non-traditional students by being used for membership in the Association for Nontraditional Students in Higher Education (ANTHSE). This group publishes a quarterly peer reviewed journal, "The Nontrad Journal" and provides scholarships.

In addition to advising NT2G and attending monthly meetings of the group, the LRC has tentatively scheduled seminars/workshops for NT2G students 2015-2016.

Students have been very receptive to the NT2G group. The anecdotal feedback is that non-traditional students can use the additional assistance and the fostering of a peer-to-peer support network. Although this group is still in the early stages of formation, we have developed stronger relationships with non-traditional students in the LRC through conversations about the group, non-traditional student's needs, and how we can best serve those needs. Students have expressed concerns about technology use and about their ability to locate assistance on campus. In response the LRC has created a collection of campus materials and a directory of contacts for students. Advising and supporting this group will be an ongoing part of the libraries services. The LRC will be able to sustain the project using current staff and facilities, and potential funding from NWFSC for future speakers based on success of the project.

NWFRLS: Bay County Public Library

Project: Genealogy Equipment Update Award Amount: \$5,957

Broken and obsolete microfilm scanners posed a huge problem for the Local History and Genealogy Department at the Bay County Public Library. With most of the Panama City News Herald on microfilm, not to mention other microfilmed resources like Bay County marriages, much of the county's history would become inaccessible, and, for the library, this scenario was unacceptable. As a result, this Genealogy Equipment Update project, funded in part by the PLAN Innovation Grant, consisted of purchasing a ScanPro 1100 microfilm scanner to replace a broken classic Cannon and an obsolete ScanPro 400. This scanner will allow continued access to the Bay County Public Library's collection of 66 distinct record series.

Feedback, all positive, can be grouped into three categories: user-friendly, time saving, and space saving. First, and most commented on, was its user-friendliness. From the clear instructions to the lack of complicated and unnecessary "bells and whistles," all patrons can utilize the machine with minimal instruction. The second category of compliments were its time-saving features, such as automated winding, image adjusting, and clipping and merging articles. Sarah Burris, a reference

librarian, remarked on the staff time saved in instructing patrons on its use and in troubleshooting. In fact, the ScanPro's efficiency convinced the Bay County Public Library's administration to purchase a second one for staff use. Third, all customers and staff prefer the small size of the ScanPro 1100 compared to its predecessor.

To enter the digital age, the community and library need updated, working microfilm scanners that not only print, but capture the film in a variety of digital formats, such as PDF, JPEG, and TIFF. Access to microfilm draws other users who may not normally visit the Bay County Public Library. For example, News Herald reporters must visit the library to research past articles. Lending libraries sometimes send microfilmed copies to fulfill Interlibrary Loan requests. Military veterans even come because the library is one of the few places they can print copies of discharge orders, or DD214s, which are sent as microfiche.

And yet, the value of this Innovation Grant to the Bay County Public Library pales in comparison to the value the Grant provides to the people of Bay County. Microfilm is still considered by many experts to be the most reliable long-term preservation method – at least until the digital landscape settles. But of what value is preservation of information, without access to that information? Without access to the local paper, local history staff would not have witnessed the joy of a descendant finding a lost obituary, the sadness of a son finding closure from reading about his father's murder, or the surprise of a local Bay High football champ receiving a scrapbook of retrieved articles. This grant ensured the community of Bay County that its people, perspective, history, and identity will be discernable from the pages of the News Herald, and other genealogy records, for many years to come.

NWFRLS: Gulf County Public Library

Project: Technology Outreach

Award Amount: \$8,860

Thanks to the generous grant funding provided by PLAN, Gulf County Libraries were able to purchase and put into use several new pieces of technology. These components- iPads, laptops, and projectors, along with periphery support materials such as the whiteboard and tablet stands, are utilized in a variety of ways to benefit our patrons. The projectors have been used for presentations by staff and guest speakers from Audubon and UWF Archeology Dept. By combining the iPads and Belkin tablet stands we have been able to create document cameras to use for demonstration and instructional purposes. This configuration was also utilized by patrons during the Stop Animation workshops. The large whiteboard comes in handy during our story time sessions and for the various summer reading and art programs. It is used for instruction and as a projection screen. The laptop computers are used as additional public computer stations and are particularly handy for those working on longer projects or for researching genealogy.

Participants have been very pleased with the new technology options. Being able to offer projection has come in handy for both presenters and staff. The iPads have been well received and we are becoming more comfortable with the many ways they can be utilized in the library. Most recently, they were used to video part of a concert that was held in the library as one of our Side Door Saturday events. Guardians of the Stop Animation students have enjoyed the option of uploading the children's videos for viewing at home. We used the iPads to enhance a couple of our summer programs with recordings of the Apollo moon landing and various 'SuperHero' theme songs. We also bookmarked some videos for easy access of 'Pete the Cat' videos for use during Children's Book Week and our Pete the Cat party (51 attendees).

Santa Rosa County School District

Project: World Book ebooks

Award Amount: \$8,370

The Santa Rosa County School District (SRCSD) purchased a two-year subscription to World Book eBooks. The World Book eBooks collection includes beautifully illustrated, engaging titles that contain such multimedia features as videos, audio, and games. Subscribers to World Book eBooks receive 24/7 unlimited simultaneous access to the entire collection, enabling school librarians to offer World Book eBooks at all times to all users--no holds or waiting.

The eBooks may be accessed from any Internet-ready computer (laptops and desktops), as well as popular mobile devices tablets including the iPad, Google Nexus 7, Samsung Galaxy Note Android devices, Mac Books, and Nook devices. All titles support the EPUB3 standard, the accepted global distribution format for ebooks developed by the International Digital Publishing Forum.

The collection offers curriculum-correlated titles from several series, including Animal Lives, Building Blocks of Mathematics, Building Blocks of Science, Early Peoples, Explore the Universe, Inventions and Discoveries, Learning Ladders, Living Green, and Trek's Travels, with new titles being uploaded to the site on an ongoing basis. When our subscription began, there were 156 sole source World Book titles and 792 open source titles. There are now 247 sole source World Book titles and 1535 open source titles.

Ebooks typically cost an average of \$20 - \$25 per book—with no district discounts offered. Due to this prohibitive pricing, schools in our district have been able to purchase very few eBooks for school library programs. World Book's yearly subscription model gave us the opportunity to provide unlimited simultaneous access to 170 proprietary eBooks (now 247 titles) for approximately 25,000 students at 30 locations--24/7, with no holds or waiting at a cost of \$9,300 a year.

Using the traditional pricing model, World Book's content would have cost us about \$120,000 a year! This Innovation Grant has expanded access to eBooks for SRCSD students in a big way.

University of West Florida

Project: KIC Bookeye Scanner

Award Amount: \$8,866

The Installation of the KIC Bookeye Scanner in the UWF Libraries Skylab provides students, faculty, staff, and its community patrons with quick, selfserve access to scan books and other materials of most sizes (up to 24" by 17"). Intuitive software included with the book scanner allows for patrons to produce high-quality, professional images for a variety of uses. The hardware configuration user interface allows patrons to scan pages of books in a fraction of the time that would be required if using conventional scanning equipment.

The scanner was installed in the libraries 5th floor Skylab on March 25th, just in time to allow students to have access to this resource for end of term papers and other school related projects.

Impact/benefits for the library and its users resulting from the project:

- The UWF Libraries Interlibrary Loan department has been able to speed up the process of scanning portions of reference materials for loan to other libraries.
- UWF faculty members have been able to more easily incorporate printed/bound materials into online courses and online sections of bricks-and-mortar courses.
- Students are utilizing this resource for a variety of reasons, mainly to save individual chapters of reference materials and parts of books that they received from other libraries through the Interlibrary Loan program.

During the period from initial setup of the Bookeye scanner on May 25th through July 27th 2015, the book scanner has logged 664 sessions and 5660 pages have been scanned.

Washington County Public Library

Project: WCPLWiFi

Award Amount: \$2,838

The "Washington WiFi" project allows Washington County Public Library to provide WiFi hotspots for check out to residents of the County. Twelve Straight Talk WiFi hotspots were purchased along with 147 1GB Straight Talk data cards (3 of the data cards would be used for beta testing of the service). This allows for a year of checkouts. Checkouts of hotspots are one month and 1GB of data. This allows the

four library locations to each offer three hotspots for checkout. Restrictions to prevent issues include offering only to Washington County residents who have had a library card for one year and a dollar a day late fee. Damage to the hotspot would be charged to the patron as if any library material was damaged.

Impact within the library and community are evident from the project. The first tangible change started in the thinking of the perception of the library. Despite how loudly the library has screamed that they were more than just books, it seems that it has been relatively unheard. People come into the library everyday believing that the library does not have anything more to offer them than recreational material. This change in perception is an ongoing process for both library staff and the community as we seek to define our role as times change. For staff, it is the realization that we may sometimes go into directions that may or may not be traditionally under the library's purview. This will be a continual struggle for library staff, and in order to be what we need to be for our patrons, change will have to occur. Community perception is most often changed with actions instead of words. Seeing that a problem that was faced by many within our county was trying to be addressed by the library has helped people see us in a different light. Hopefully, this project will continue to affect tangible changes of perception.

Sustainable tangible benefits are hard to determine in the project. Our patrons enjoy the service and many are excited about the ability to suddenly have internet. However, many were surprised by how fast 1GB of data was used up. Also, there are long term considerations for the project for both staff and patrons. One of the greatest concerns of the project was how to make it more sustainable for the future after the initial grant funds were spent to launch the project. Research was done to find out whether the internet access provided outside of the library to patrons could be claimed for e-rate reimbursement. At this time, it is not eligible. Thoughts on selling data cards to patrons and even having patrons buy their own data and merely checkout the library's equipment has been contemplated. None of the solutions seem feasible at the time. However, if there is minimal loss and damage for the hotspots then replacement may be easily folded into the library's regular budget. Usage statistics for individual checkout is smaller than anticipated due to patrons requesting to renew the item for a longer period of time.

Watching both staff and library users learn about the project has been interesting. From sweet teas to bribe the cataloger to create a special record for circulation to library users saying, "Really? It's free?" one thing no one has been is uninterested in trying something new. The true value of the project is in people seeking out the services that the library can provide.

Wilderness Coast Public Libraries

Award Amount: \$4,500

Project: Overdrive Kids' Reading Room

The purpose of the Overdrive Kids' Reading Room project was to establish a digital library for the children and young adults of Franklin, Jefferson, and Wakulla Counties. The Wilderness Coast cooperative began offering e-books and audiobooks to patrons in our service area in 2012, but this initial phase concentrated on adult materials. The Kids' Reading Room project was designed to supplement the existing Overdrive collection and provide parents, caregivers, and younger patrons with remote access to quality digital materials.

The Kids' Reading Room has been very popular with our younger patrons. Two hundred and fifty-eight items have circulated from the collection, and the monthly circulation total of materials purchased has increased 300% in the three months since the launch of the project. As of May 31, 2015, digital circulation from the Kids' Reading Room accounted for 3.64% of the total children's and young adult materials circulation in the cooperative, and we expect that percentage to steadily increase during the next few months.