



## Innovation Project Application

Library: Northwest Regional Library System

Project Manager: Gerard Giordano

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Name of Project: *Tablets to Go! II*

Project Amount requested: \$4,999.00

Scope of the Project: Currently the Northwest Regional Library System (NWRLS) offers 15 Kindle Fire tablets to borrow in Gulf and Liberty counties. The scope of this project is to build upon the progress made during the 2015-2016 *Tablets To Go!* PLAN Innovation Grant project. This phase of the program will address challenges to libraries undertaking device loaning programs. Specifically, it will tackle licensing and staff maintenance/processing time lessons that were learned in phase one of the project.

What need in the library/community will this project address?

A recent article<sup>1</sup> indicates a continuing trend of people acquiring information through ebook and audio book media formats. The initial use of eReader tablets at Bay County Public Library and the *Tablets to Go!* program confirmed that these formats are greatly valued (as indicated through reserve requests) by NWRLS users. The inclusion of readily accessible ebook formats is consistent with NWRLS' *Long-Range Plan October 2017 – September 2022* to place up to date information technologies within the reach all in our service area, regardless of socioeconomic status.

Resources required:

Approximately 15 [\*Playaway Lock\*](#) preloaded ebook readers containing approximately 80 new and /or popular titles.

Activities/Timeline (include estimated completion date):

**Upon receiving units:** The new devices will be added to the collection of other devices available for check out. They will be cataloged (so that patrons can see a list of pre-loaded titles within the online catalog). This should be completed within one month of receiving grant funds.

**During the ensuing year:** a) Usage will be monitored to determine demand in Bay County b) User feedback will be used to improve usability of the devices and pre-loaded content; b) Policies and

procedures will be evaluated and adjusted as needed to ensure maximum benefit to intended target group. c) The project will be a valuable enhancement of the project manager's participation in the Sunshine State Library Leadership Institute (SSLLI), Year 14. The project manager's SSLLI project revolves around the theme: *Give Books Back To Libraries*. A recent article<sup>ii</sup> discussed a plethora of issues surrounding the advent of ebooks. What appears to be happening is that public libraries are losing some ground with respect Benjamin Franklin's vision as the place where, "The doors of wisdom are never shut." The goal is to develop leadership initiatives that ensure that the public library in America makes information available to all socio-economic classes.

**At end of 1 year:** Staff involved with this phase of the project will make recommendations for the continuation and possible expansion of the device lending program. If there is sufficient demand, training modules will be designed for the purpose of staff training and resource sharing with other libraries.

How will the library sustain this project?

If these and similar devices prove to be an information resource greatly demanded by the public, the library will incorporate digital content and device equipment costs into the annual budget.

Library Director's signature:  Date: 10/30/17

 Date: 10/30/17  
Signature of agent, office, or board to whom the Director reports

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For PLAN use only:

Approved \_\_\_\_\_ Not Approved \_\_\_\_\_

PLAN Executive Director \_\_\_\_\_

<sup>i</sup> "OverDrive Reports Growth in Borrowing of eBooks and Audiobooks from the Library in 2016." Entertainment Close-up, 19 Jan. 2017. Fine Arts and Music Collection, [poptop.nwrls.lib.fl.us:2210/ps/i.do?p=GPS&sw=w&u=26632\\_nwrls&v=2.1&it=r&id=GALE%7CA478124272&asid=bb1c36246d181569e6ddcd82e0de9f76](http://poptop.nwrls.lib.fl.us:2210/ps/i.do?p=GPS&sw=w&u=26632_nwrls&v=2.1&it=r&id=GALE%7CA478124272&asid=bb1c36246d181569e6ddcd82e0de9f76). Accessed 8 Oct. 2017.

<sup>ii</sup> Inouye, A. S. (2016, January 4). What's in Store for Ebooks? Retrieved from American Libraries: <https://americanlibrariesmagazine.org/2016/01/04/whats-store-ebooks/>