

TO: BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES

FROM: Library Services Department
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TITLE: Technological Literacy and the Media Lab

ABSTRACT

The Newport Beach Public Library actively provides ways to enrich the community by teaching classes, circulating unique collections, and hosting special events. Increasing technological literacy was identified as a goal during the Administrative Team retreat in Fall 2015. A collection of items designed to support technological literacy has been created for circulation to Library customers.

RECOMMENDATION

Update the Newport Beach Public Library Circulation Policy to accommodate the circulation of Tech Toys, such as GoPro camera kits, USB-enabled turntables, and media conversion equipment.

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

This project is funded by a donation from the NBPL Foundation. The 2015 Wish List submitted to the NBPL Foundation requested funds to enhance the Media Lab technology experience.

DISCUSSION

The Newport Beach Public Library strives to provide the highest quality service, experience, and education for the community. The Media Lab, and the unique workstations within, meets these objectives. Public libraries recognize that customers often explore technology and equipment outside the library. Similar to outreach opportunities, providing circulating technology allows NBPL to reach a new audience outside the confines of a building. Moreover, customers who utilize the circulating equipment can then finalize projects with the Media Lab software and equipment. The Newport Beach Public Library has the opportunity to reimagine the technology experience for customers by offering the use of high-quality equipment in a setting of their choosing. Although the Media Lab features conversion equipment, such as a digital scanner and LP converter, time and the volume of material to convert poses challenges when planning a trip to the Central Library. Offering customers the opportunity to gain experience with some Tech Toys and the option to complete their projects elsewhere provides value and flexibility public libraries can match.

NOTICING

This agenda item has been noticed according to the Brown Act (72 hours in advance of the meeting at which the Board of Library Trustees considers the item).