



10 TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES FOR PUBLIC LIBRARIANS

Kathryn Brockmeier, Jodi Rethmeier, Lisa Sewell, and Kirsten Yates

School of Information Science & Technologies, University of Missouri

Emerging Technologies, 9410 Seminar in Information Science and Learning Technology, Fall 2015

This publication is meant to be inspiration for public library staff who are looking for ways to bring technology tools to their staff and patrons. We have attempted to compile some of the most accessible technologies that can be used with a variety of budgets and levels of experience.

On the Ground – For Library Users

Ancestry.com Library Edition <http://www.ancestry.com/cs/us/institution#library-edition>

According to [GenealogyInTime Magazine](#), it's possible that one out of forty members of a family is researching family history ("How Popular Is Genealogy?" n.d.). That totals 7.9 million Americans. Ancestry.com is an online family history research collection of billions of digitized and indexed historical records. This resource provides access to millions of historical photos, billions of historical documents, plus local narratives, oral histories, indexes and other resources in over 30,000 databases that span from the 1500s to the 2000s. Ancestry Library Edition, distributed exclusively by ProQuest, is the institutional subscription available to libraries. If one-fortieth of your local population could use Ancestry.com, after cost-analysis, it may be worth the price of a subscription.

Canva <https://www.canva.com/>

If one doesn't have access to expensive graphic design software, Canva is a freemium application that tailors the user experience by work, personal, or education, to create stunning posters, social media graphic posts, cards, letterheads, wallpapers, flyers, invitations, and more. Its introductory twenty-three-second tutorial shows the user how extremely easy it is to use their templates. Its tools and features are rich, sophisticated, and simple, though the best features require a paid upgrade. Some of Canva's competitors include PicMonkey, YouZign, and GIMP. Amanda Tarbet, a reference librarian, offers examples of outreach visuals in her online [portfolio](#) that she created with Canva ("Outreach Visuals Made with Canva," n.d.).

Digital Scrapbooking

Digital scrapbooking is a process of using digital photographs, combined with software programs like Adobe Photoshop, Filter Forge, Corel Paintshop Pro, and GIMP. The result is a product that, when printed, will be two-dimensional art, usually with sentimental value about people or events included in the photographs. Digital scrapbooking kits range in price and use requirements, but can often be used repeatedly. Having a scanner and software available for patrons would be beneficial to those who want to document an event or family/friend relationship but can't afford to do so through purchasing individual software. Since the finished product is digital, it can be entered into "print-on-demand photo books, traditional scrapbooks, burned onto CDs, or posted on the web" ("Digital Scrapbooking," n.d.). After the scrapbook has been assembled, the number of copies a user can make is unlimited!

There are paid and free digital scrapbooking supplies available. There are also several levels available to scrapbookers with varying levels of experience, from those who feel comfortable combining their own decorations, to those who'd like to just drop photos into otherwise completed pages. Digital scrapbooking events at your library could become a community-building activity your patrons will love!

Evernote <https://evernote.com/>

On the surface, Evernote simply appears to be a notetaking app, but it is actually much more. Evernote allows the user to store just about anything digitized or web-based in one place. Notes, recipes, news, contacts, research, entire web pages, audio/visual content, and project management are some of the tasks, features, and data Evernote helps a user organize. Evernote's goal, if not to organize, is then at least contain the "random" in one place. Texas A&M University offers a useful [Evernote LibGuide](#), and Florida Library Webinars offers a 1-hour how-to for public librarians ("Evernote," n.d.; "Evernote for Library Staff," n.d.).

Flip Video Ultra HD

The Flip camera is a digital video recording device that fits in the palm of your hand. Features include a good-sized screen, one-touch record, zoom, playback, USB connection, HDMI port, place to attach a tripod, and decent sound. Although no longer in production, the Flip camera can be bought used for a reasonable price. Flip cameras could be made available for checkout at your library. They may be used to record family events and oral history. For example, the Liverpool Public Library makes available Family History Video Kits ("Preserve Your Family History," n.d.). The Flip camera could be the starting point for your own digital media lab. Library computers, along with video-editing software, can provide an avenue for creating long-lasting, high-quality memories any user could be proud of.

Internet Archive <https://archive.org/>

Internet Archive is a nonprofit internet repository that offers open access to over 15 million gigabytes of digitized content like books, images, music, movies, software, and archived web pages (Brownell & Hansen-Bundy, 2014). Its biggest growing collection is TV news footage (Brownell & Hansen-Bundy, 2014). Its founder Brewster Kahle, a digital librarian, states that his goal is to make the site the biggest library on the planet (Simon, 2012).

Mango Languages <http://www.mangolanguages.com/libraries/>

Patrons and librarians alike can learn any of over 70 languages from their computer or mobile device through Mango Languages' user-friendly, interactive database. Mango provides patrons a free alternative to expensive programs like Rosetta Stone.

Mango's trademark is its simplicity of teaching: it breaks languages down into practical bite-size chunks for learners to tackle at their own pace, and native speakers lead its conversational style. Libraries purchase a membership through which patrons can access Mango's language resources, including interactive lessons on speaking Spanish for Librarians, Mandarin, Pirate, and even Cherokee. All patrons have to do is enter their library card number to access the wealth of resources Mango provides. With [Mango Premiere](#), libraries can offer their patrons entertaining films in the language they are learning, too (Brynko, 2013).

Tablets and E-Readers <http://ebookfriendly.com/tablet-or-ereader-questionnaire/>

Tablets and e-readers have become hugely popular-and so have the digital library materials accessible with them. These mobile devices offer portability and versatility that desktops and laptops do not, function on a higher level than smartphones, and have the advantage for readers of being the same size as a book. Apple's

iPad, Samsung's Galaxy Tab, and Microsoft's Surface tablets are some of the leading right now. E-readers like Amazon's Kindle and Barnes & Noble's Nook are tablets designed mainly to store and display e-books instead of access apps and internet.

As with every new technology, it is important for your library to assess your patrons' needs and see if working with these tools is something worthwhile in your area (Miller, 2015). [Drake Memorial Library](#) provides devices for checkout, [Mesa County Libraries](#) offers classes on using them, and thousands of libraries circulate digital materials through device-compatible services like Overdrive ("Tech Tools," n.d.; Hamilton, 2013).

Behind the Scenes – For Library Staff

Library Blogs

Library blogs keep information/library sciences professionals and patrons in touch with breaking news coverage, "like research, vendor and technology announcements" (ProQuest, 2015). Check out the great blogs recommended by ProQuest in 2014, and these they added to the list this year:

- [InfoDocket](#) - A daily read that updates and directs its readers to interesting developments, publications and happenings across the spectrum of librarianship. The occasional cautionary tale acts as an ethics compass, keeping the important role of libraries front and center.
- [Library Technology Guides](#) - A go-to directory of recent announcements from vendors, developed by Marshall Breeding. Neatly indexed, the announcements can be sliced and diced to show news patterns. A bonus: Background data on major vendors.
- [ACRLog](#) – 'ACRLog is a blog that aims to discuss the issues of the day in the field of academic and research librarianship.'
- [Code4Lib](#) – 'A volunteer-driven collective of hackers, designers, architects, curators, catalogers, artists and instigators from around the world, who largely work for and with libraries, archives and museums on technology "stuff."'
- [No Shelf Required](#) – Sue Polanka gives news about ebooks in a great mix of news and interviews.
- [The Scholarly Kitchen](#) – 'A moderated and independent blog aimed to help fulfill [its] mission by bringing together differing opinions, commentary, and ideas, and presenting them openly.'
- [Library Juice](#) – 'An intriguing blog for analysis and commentary "on the intersection of libraries, politics, and culture."'
- [Virtual Dave...Real Blog](#) - A blog by Dave Lankes, associate professor at Syracuse University's School of Information Studies in New York.

Pinterest <https://www.pinterest.com/>

Pinterest is a social media site that serves as a virtual inspiration board for a variety of interests as large as the internet itself. Organize your favorite ideas for your library by saving links to personalized boards you can share with patrons and librarians alike, and easily look back on for inspiration.

Share booklists, special collections, events, displays, and [anything else](#) you can think of with your patrons and colleagues (Rummel, 2012). Look at Wilkinson's great in-depth 2013 introduction to Pinterest, as well some of his ideas for your library, like [Akron-Summit Library's](#) harnessing of existing computer classes to train patrons on how to use the site (trichardson, 2015). [Others](#) host Pinterest-themed events where patrons test out and create popular crafty pins ("Pinterest Craft Night," n.d.). Many librarians have reaped the benefits of using Pinterest to connect with other librarians worldwide for programming, training, and many other ideas. Whatever your staff or patrons need, Pinterest could very well put the solution at your fingertips.

References

- Brownell, B. & Hansen-Bundy, B. (2014, May 22). Meet the people behind the Wayback Machine, one of our favorite things about the internet. Retrieved from <http://www.motherjones.com/media/2014/05/internet-archive-wayback-machine-brewster-kahle>
- Brynko, B. (2013, September). Mango premiere: Learning through film. *Information Today*, 30(8), 30.
- Digital scrapbooking. (n.d.) Retrieved from <http://www.worldlibrary.org/article/whebn0003499847/digital%20scrapbooking>
- Evernote. (n.d.). Retrieved from <http://guides.library.tamu.edu/evernote>
- Evernote for library staff: What is Evernote and how you can make it work for you. (n.d.). Retrieved from <http://floridalibrarywebinars.org/evernote-for-library-staff-what-is-evernote-and-how-you-can-make-it-work-for-you-ondemand/>
- Hamilton, A. (2013, December 22). Library offers e-reader classes. Retrieved from <http://www.gjsentinel.com/news/articles/library-offers-ereader-classes>
- How popular is genealogy? (n.d.). Retrieved from <http://www.genealogyintime.com/articles/how-popular-is-genealogy-page01.html>
- Kowalczyk, P. (2015, October 19). Tablet or e-reader? These 12 questions will help you decide. Retrieved from <http://ebookfriendly.com/tablet-or-ereader-questionnaire/>
- Miller, R. K., Moorefield-Lang, H., & Meier, C. (2015, October). Introduction: Intentional integration of tablets and mobile devices into library services. *Library Technology Reports*, 51(7), 5-8, 2.
- Outreach visuals made with Canva. (n.d.). Retrieved from <http://amandatarbet.dunked.com/outreach-visuals-made-with-canva>
- Pinterest craft night. (n.d.). Retrieved from <http://www.orrville.lib.oh.us/content/adult-pinterest-craft>
- Preserve your family history. (n.d.). Retrieved from <http://www.lpl.org/about-the-library/news-releases/1660-preserve-your-family-history>
- ProQuest. (2014, September 2). 12 awesome librarian blogs. Retrieved from <http://www.proquest.com/blog/2014/12-Awesome-Librarian-Blogs--.html>
- ProQuest. (2015, January 12). Awesome bloggers – part deux (The best library news blogs). Retrieved from <http://www.proquest.com/blog/pqblog/2015/Best-library-news-blogs.html>
- Rummel, J. (2012, June). How to use Pinterest for your library. Retrieved from <http://www.voyamagazine.com/2012/05/25/how-to-use-pinterest-for-your-library/>
- Simon, M. (2012, August 20). Alexandria 2.0: One millionaire's quest to build the biggest library on Earth. Retrieved from <http://www.wired.com/2012/08/brewster-kahle/>
- Start designing. (2015). Retrieved from <http://www.canva.com>
- Tech tools. (n.d.). Retrieved from <http://library.brockport.edu/techtools>
- The Resume. (n.d.). Retrieved from <http://amandatarbet.dunked.com/the-extended-resume>
- trichardson. (2015, November 18). Computer training: Pinterest. Retrieved from <http://odomboulevardbranch.akronlibrary.org/2015/11/18/computer-training-pinterest/>
- Wilkinson, Z. (2013). Oh, how Pinteresting! An introduction to Pinterest. *Library Hi Tech News*, 30(1), 1-4.