

AMY Regional Library Long-Range Strategic Plan for the Fiscal Years 2012-2017

Introduction

This plan will be adopted by the AMY Regional Library Board at the 2012 Annual Meeting. It will be reviewed annually with reports from the Regional Library Director quarterly as necessary. The plan begins with a Mission Statement, Believe Statement and Vision Statement. What is our ultimate purpose/goal? Based on that, what values guide us? And, because of our efforts, what are the outcomes? From these statements will come goals, many of which, most likely, will be similar to goal statements in previous long-range plans; however, even small tweaks can make a significant difference in the rapidly changing nature of human service. Strategies will be developed to meet the goals and to provide measureable outcome statements. The goals and strategies will be guided by the *North Carolina Standards for Public Libraries*, the State Library's Long-Range Strategic Plans and best evidence-based practice reports from the profession. Most importantly, the goals and strategies will be based on the identified needs, interests and requests from the residents of our 3 counties, which will involve them directly as well as feedback from other agencies and institutions with similar service missions. This entire process will be conducted by the Regional Library Director in collaboration with the staff of the Regional Library and the staffs of the 4 libraries and bookmobile/outreach service. Each phase of the process will be shared with Regional and Local Boards for input and suggestions.

Mission Statement of the AMY Regional Library System

To help the people of Avery, Mitchell and Yancey Counties create and maintain a foundation for literacy, economic development, and democracy.

Believe Statement

Economic development and maintaining democratic governance demands that a citizenry be properly educated, well informed and engaged in the ongoing life of their communities. Literacy in its many forms provides the underpinnings for these characteristics. The administration and staff of the AMY Regional Library strives to be an integral part of the lives of the residents in our 3 counties by providing them with unique and excellent educational, recreational, informational and cultural services. We also build collaborative relationships with other agencies and institutions which have similar missions and goals to enhance these services.

Vision Statement

Members of the communities served by AMY will make their libraries a focal point in their community. Our libraries will be inviting places where people of all ages, cultures, backgrounds, interests, and abilities will find friendly and caring assistance to meet their educational, informational, cultural heritage, and recreational needs.

Long-Range Technology Plan for the Fiscal Years 2012-2017

Mission Statement

To help the people of Avery, Mitchell and Yancey Counties create and maintain a foundation for literacy, economic development, and democracy thru the appropriate use of information technology.

Technology Planning and Management

Technology applications are essential and integrated components of AMY Regional Library operation and service. While it may appear prejudicial to have a separate Technology Plan, annual reporting requirements, advocacy efforts and evolving learning needs require that technology management have its own set of goals and strategies.

Belief Statement

We subscribe to the idea that information technology (IT) applications in our libraries are similar to what Edward R. Murrow said about television: “This instrument can teach, it can illuminate; yes, and it can even inspire. But it can do so only to the extent that humans are determined to use it to those ends. Otherwise it is merely wires and lights in a box.”

By 2014, at least 97% of the buildings in our counties will have high speed internet access. However, based on data from our service records, surveys and focus groups, it is obvious that they will continue to depend upon their public libraries to provide direct high speed internet access to support their learning, job searches and applications, social networking, recreation and personal empowerment. In collaboration with other agencies and institutions, we must provide digital literacy opportunities across the life-span for our residents to attain full digital citizenship. As we have replaced 33 1/3 records and 16mm films and complimented traditional print materials with tapes then CD’s and now downloadable formats we continue to explore ways in which we can provide our users with the same if not better opportunities as those anywhere else in the world. While the internet may dominate requests and perceived values of users, other information packages and technologies are very much a part of our libraries’ services for them. Microform readers, fax and copy machines, telecommunications systems and presentation systems and software are important in the overall technology integrated service to our communities.

Vision Statement

Access, education and assistance are the hallmarks of AMY Regional Library Technology Services. We pursue the most cost effective ways possible to provide the diverse residents of our three-county area and our staff with access to information technology hardware, software, and connectivity; digital literacy instruction; and assistance when needed, which will help meet the service, educational, recreational, informational and cultural needs of the 3-county residents and staff.