ATHENA PUBLIC LIBRARY

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Mission Statement

The Athena Public Library recognizes the importance of its role in providing prevalent and current educational, recreational and reference materials within a welcoming environment for the people in the Athena area. We are committed to selecting, organizing and managing resources to insure that the public has free access to both printed materials and equipment to access the internet and other software for basic computer use to meet their needs.

Vision

The Athena Public Library seeks to promote the continuing development of knowledge, independence, education, intellect, and cultural information through printed and electronic resources.

Priority # 5: Technology: Focused on significantly increasing web presence and technology resources to provide rural community access to the Internet, jobs, and skill learning.

While the objectives below are attainable, providing basic computer-access to patrons is just the tip of the iceberg. I have been reading about libraries and technology and have determined that my goal will be to better understand new techno vocabulary as it relates to my library users and how to incorporate that knowledge into better "services" for our patrons. Digital Fugitives have been the more traditional target audience of public libraries. These are folks who are largely unfamiliar with technology. We teach them the basic skills, and they learn to navigate within their comfort zone. Digital Immigrants are those who did not grow up with technology but have grown to integrate it into their everyday lives. What are we doing for them? Is there knowledge and entertainment beyond the cell phone? Digital Natives are those who have or are growing up with digital technology and have become dependent upon it. With my own lack of techno knowledge/vocabulary, what can I do to engage my tech-reliant community without feeling competitive about printed resources versus techno dependency? What can the younger and older generations teach me about technology usage in their lives?

- Increase WiFi bandwith, place an antenna toward the front of the library
- Replace public-access computers (4)
- Use library budget for labor costs (computer repairs)
- Register with Tech-Soup for discounted software such as Symantec (virus protection) and Faronics Deep Freeze (clears computers of public's usage)
- Staff will continue to help public with basic computer skills
- Monitor library website and update regularly.
- Use Facebook more regularly
- Determine targets for verbal gathering of useful information

Goals: (1.) Become better informed about everyday use of electronic "gadgets" and encourage more patrons to try Library2Go and other databases offered through our website, while I make better use of our website and facebook avenues.

(2.) Using knowledgeable targets to develop a better understanding of patrons' technological uses outside library walls—all ages. Interpreting the information to provide better services.

Priority #6: Welcoming User Friendly Atmosphere: Focused on developing a library that is a friendly, active, and welcoming center of rural community life

I recognize that people most often associate libraries with a physical collection, we need to help them see libraries as community builders, community centers for diverse populations, centers for the arts, universities for the people, and champions of youth. Welcoming and user friendly in this plan involves helping people to understand the value of all that our library offers them: including entertainment, cultural education through art, and using the library socially and not seeing the building as a book warehouse.

- Reinstate an arts committee to seek art exhibits. (We had exhibits for the first six years after building. Our committee of one became extremely busy with family and her own business and was unable to continue.)
- Continue to offer the library for a gathering place at no cost to groups
- Help promote the adult reading group and all-age knitting group that meet regularly at the library

Goal: (1.) Increase attendance at programs and activities

(2.) Increase number of programs/activities offered

Priority #9: Community Relations Program: Focused on establishing the library as a vital presence in the community.

- Send more press releases and pictures about activities at the library
- Work with ALFA (Athena Library Friends Assoc.) to promote library programming
- Continue to educate and build relationships with city council
- Open on Saturday for Hodaka and Caledonian Games
- Encourage more school visits
- Continue to work with ABC Preschool
- Arrange for storytime at McEwen Housing or outreach to home daycares
- Continue SRP (summer reading program)
- Promote UCSLD

Goal: (1.) Present the library as the "go to" spot in Athena
(2.) Promote UCSLD not as just a funding source, but an integral part of the library system's services and benefits, organization and operations