

Oshkosh Public Library
Application for a Digital Creation Technology LSTA Grant – September 13, 2013

ABSTRACT

The Oshkosh Public Library will develop a digital creation space called DCS@OPL which will include a publishing center and a podcasting studio. The library will further its commitment to the digital revolution by providing training and access to digital technologies in order to encourage and empower community members of all ages, both digital natives as well as digital migrants, to create new digital content.

The Publishing Center will provide community members with training and access to computers, equipment, and software to be used to create not only their book but promotional materials for their books as well. Library programming will include a professional speaker series focusing on important facets of independent publishing. This project will also support K-12 students' achievement of Wisconsin's Common Core Standards for English Language Arts, which call for them to be able to "employ technology thoughtfully to enhance their reading, writing, speaking, listening, and language use." The Library's Children & Family Outreach Department will target school-age children by partnering with staff from Emmeline Cook Elementary School for a Create-A-Book contest. There will also be collaboration with established library youth groups (Teen Advisory Group, Teen Book Club, and Tweens Create Group).

The Podcasting Studio will provide community members with training and access to professional digital recording equipment in order to inspire and facilitate digital creativity in the form of podcasts. In the first year, the Oshkosh Public Library will partner with the Winnebago Land Genealogical Society to produce a series of podcasts sharing knowledge and personal experience in conducting genealogical research in Winnebago County.

Ongoing training programs for both the community members and library staff will ensure the sustainability and durability of our Digital Creation Space. The Library will also actively seek additional school partnerships for the publishing center and community organizations for the podcasting studio.