

The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga Student Technology Fee Funding Request

Proposal

Beginning 2005-2006

Title: Wireless Laptop “Loan and Roam” Service – Replacement Project

Unit Submitting Proposal: Lupton Library

Briefly summarize the proposed project.

The Lupton Library is currently equipped with 18 wireless laptop computers, which may be checked out by UTC students, faculty, staff and alumni for in-Library use only. These laptops allow wireless access to the Internet from anywhere in the Library, and include the Microsoft Office productivity software (Word, Excel, Powerpoint).

Since its establishment in 2002, the popularity and circulation statistics of this service have increased dramatically and shown continued heavy use even after the re-opening of the University Center Computer Lab. At peak usage periods, all 18 laptops have been checked out and in use.

	Jan 1– June 30, 2003	July 1 – Dec 31, 2003	Jan 1– June 30, 2004	July 1 – Nov 30, 2004	TOTAL
Number of Circulations	335	1,673	1,956	1,444*	5,408

*Statistics reflect most recent 5-month period

These 18 laptops were originally purchased in 2001 by CECA (the Center for Excellence in Computer Applications) as part of a demonstration project to establish the first publicly-accessible wireless network on campus. The laptops are rapidly approaching obsolescence, as they do not have the memory or processor power to support newer applications or operating system upgrades. Four years of public use have also taken a toll on the hardware components and battery lives of these laptops. Replacement parts are increasingly difficult and expensive to obtain; the warranties on these laptops expired in July 2004.

Identify the project goals and objectives. Briefly describe your goals and objectives. Include in the description how the outcomes of the project will improve teaching and learning. Indicate also the anticipated reach of your project. In other words, how many and what type of students will benefit from the successful execution of the proposed funding? How will they benefit?

The objective of this replacement project is to update and increase the number of wireless laptop computers available for circulation. Undergraduate students account for 88.3% of the circulations of these laptops since 2002; graduate students another 7.9%.

The laptop computers allow students to conduct research using the Library's databases and Internet, and to create research papers and class presentations from anywhere inside the Library, which offers a more conducive study environment than large computer labs. With the portability and wireless networking capabilities of these laptops, students can work on individual research projects in quiet study carrels or collaborate on team projects with classmates in the Library's group study rooms.

Describe the method with which you will achieve your goals. Briefly describe your methodology. Include a calendar of target project dates. That is, when will the major steps in the project begin and end?

Purchase, configuration, and deployment of these new wireless laptops would begin in the summer of 2005, and be completed by the start of fall semester.

How will you evaluate the success of the project? Describe your evaluation criteria clearly. How will you determine whether the project is successful?

The Library will continue monitoring circulation statistics of the laptops it loans. With additional laptop computers, and if usage statistics should hold steady or decline, the Library may consider extending borrowing privileges of its laptops outside the building for longer periods of time.

Previous grant(s): If you received a Student Technology Fee grant last year, have you submitted your final report?

Technical work by Network Services staff to complete the proposed expansion of public "plug in" network ports inside the Library was completed in late October. A final report to the Student Technology Fee committee chair, due by August 1, 2005, is pending completion of a user satisfaction survey.

Proposed location: Describe the proposed location of the equipment, software, etc.

These wireless laptops would be stored and circulated from the Library's Main Circulation Desk on the first floor. At this time, laptop usage would continue to be limited to in-building use, but may be extended outside the Library based on circulation statistics and user demand.

Requested Budget: Clearly identify one-time costs, such as equipment, shipping, and installation. Clearly identify recurring costs, such as maintenance and support, and the source of the funds to cover the recurring costs.

Summary of projected costs

Salaries (if any)	\$0
Equipment (hardware and software)	\$57,200 – 26 Dell laptop computers 24 circulating, 2 for backup & testing
	\$2,000 – Storage cart with shelving and power outlets

Complete the following items as appropriate

Installation	\$0
Construction/renovation costs	\$0
Annual maintenance/support costs	\$0
Training	\$0
Recurring costs per year	\$0

Total project one-time costs \$59,200
Estimated recurring costs per year \$0

Identify the area(s) responsible for operating and maintaining the equipment.

Lupton Library, Systems and Access Services Departments

Approval by Dean or Vice Chancellor:_____

Individual responsible to complete proposal if funded: Jon Ritterbush, UC Foundation Assistant Professor and Systems Administrator, Lupton Library

Priority established by Dean or Vice Chancellor:_____

Deans and Vice Chancellors should return completed forms (along with 20 copies) to Provost John Friedl, Chair of the University Technology Committee, prior to **December 10, 2004**