ONE NETWORK

Digital Equity Newsletter

December 2024

Welcome to One Network - This newsletter is an overview of the digital equity services offered by organizations like Literacy Minnesota and resources for those wanting to know more about digital equity.

A great place to get digital equity services for free is your local library. Yes, that's right, they have more than just books in a library. Find access to computers, printers, helpful devices and a variety of classes. The included article will go over some basics of library services and has links to find out more of what libraries near you may offer.

Have you utilized or recommend the technology services at your local library?

Covered within this issue:
- Community Bulletin
  - Libraries – More Than Just Books!
- Literacy MN Digital Literacy Services
- Other Minnesota Initiatives
- Resources

Literacy Minnesota

651-645-2277
https://www.literacymn.org/
700 Raymond Avenue Suite 180, Saint Paul, MN 55114

Mission: To share the power of learning through education, community building and advocacy.

Community Bulletin

Libraries - More Than Just Books!

Literacy goes beyond books and that includes the services that libraries offer. Libraries are free and they all want you to come in to use their services. You can find all sorts of resources at your local library. These can include classes, homework help, career development, meeting rooms, social events, art experiences, meal services, equipment rentals and of course many technology related services.
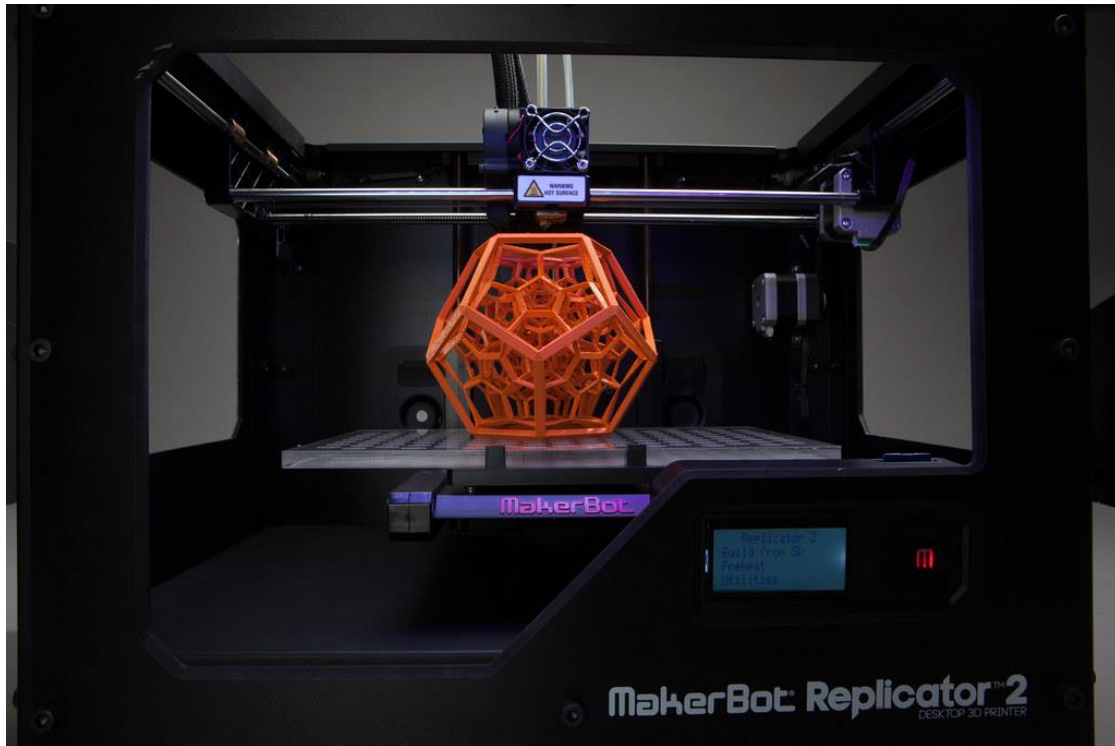
Computers

Stop in for free Wi-Fi! You can use your own device or take advantage of the computer labs. Library computers have access to web browsers, Microsoft (Word, Excel, PowerPoint) and databases for researching.

Printing and More

Most libraries have low-cost printing/copying and free scanning/faxing. Check online or call ahead to see what to expect for these services before you go.

Assistive Technology

Everyone has different needs when it comes to understanding the world of technology. Many libraries have different accessible options for software and devices. Reach out to the libraries near you to see if they have options like screen readers, text-to-speech, communication devices, audio recorders or braille.

Specialty Devices

Every library is different so you may find technology like 3D printers, large scale scanners, laminators, video equipment, sewing machines and sometimes advanced software on the computers.

Classes

Find classes on using email, Google Drive, Microsoft programs, browsing the internet, computers, smartphones and tablets. You can also get assistance with finding a job, resume building or understanding healthcare systems. Also, certain Ramsey County locations offer classes using Northstar Digital Literacy a program of Literacy Minnesota.

Librarians

The people who work at libraries are there to help. Don't be afraid to ask them questions. You never know what you may find out!

This newsletter focuses on the metro area counties which include Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott and Washington. You can find direct links to those Minnesota counties in the sources section for this article. If you live in a different part of the state or somewhere else, we encourage you to check out what your local library has to offer.

Article Sources

Anoka County
https://www.anokacountymn.gov/4180/Libraries

Carver County
https://www.carverlib.org/

Dakota County
https://www.co.dakota.mn.us/libraries

Hennepin County
https://www.hclib.org/

Ramsey County
https://www.rclreads.org/

Scott County
https://www.scottcountymn.gov/2153/Library

Washington County
https://www.washcolib.org/

Our Digital Literacy Services

Digital equity requires access to devices, an internet connection, and digital skills. Below you can find how Literacy Minnesota is helping provide those services.
https://www.literacymn.org/digitalliteracy

Northstar Digital Literacy

The Northstar program assesses digital skills and provides classroom curriculum and self-directed online learning.

Website: https://www.digitalliteracyassessment.org/

Digital Equity and Navigation

Digital Navigators mentor individuals in using technology and help with getting low-cost internet. For more information on our services contact Susan at swbrandt@literacymn.org.
https://www.literacymn.org/digital-equity-navigation

Midway Location: 553 Fairview Ave N, Saint Paul, MN 55104
The Midway digital literacy lab at Goodwill-Easter Seals is coordinated by Manee Thao and open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Minneapolis Location: 627 W Broadway Ave, Minneapolis, MN 55411
Katey Miller works at the Minneapolis campus facilitating computer labs and Northstar digital literacy classes. The lab is open from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m. Mondays to Thursdays.

Trainings and Workshops

We offer an assortment of programming for instructors that focus on digital literacy.
https://www.literacymn.org/digital-literacy-trainings-workshops

Other Initiatives in Minnesota

Neighborhood House

The Adult Education Program at Neighborhood House provides adult learners with ongoing educational support and learning opportunities. One of the areas of service they offer is digital literacy classes.

https://neighborhoodhousemn.org/

Lyndale Neighborhood Association

The Lyndale Education Program serves the residents of Horn Towers with literacy, language, and career skills. They created the ELDES curriculum to help address digital literacy gaps in English learners.

https://lyndale.org/

PCs for People

This is a nonprofit social enterprise working to get low-cost quality computers and internet into the homes of individuals, families, and nonprofits with low income.

https://www.pcsforpeople.org/

Office of Broadband Development

https://mn.gov/deed/programs-services/broadband/

Helping Minnesotans understand broadband options available and work together to improve availability and use of high-speed broadband services.

Connectivity Blueprint

An initiative led by Ramsey County and Saint Paul to create a community-guided roadmap for achieving digital inclusion.

https://www.ramseycounty.us/your-government/projects-initiatives/ramsey-connected-computer-internet-resources/connectivity-blueprint

Technology Literacy Collaborative (TLC)

The TLC is a group of aspiring leaders in the digital equity field within the Twin Cities. They gather to problem solve and discuss best practices.

https://www.linkedin.com/groups/14411564

Check out this newsletter's resource section on our website to see more local organizations.
https://www.literacymn.org/one-network-newsletter-resources

Resources

Digital Equity Act
https://www.digitalequityact.org/

National Digital Inclusion Alliance (NDIA)
https://www.digitalinclusion.org/

National Collaborative for Digital Equity (NCDE)
https://www.digitalequity.us/
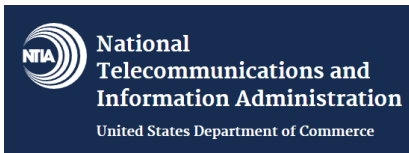
National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA)
https://www.ntia.doc.gov/

NDIA's Important Words

Digital Equity
A condition in which all individuals and communities have the information technology capacity needed for full participation in our society, democracy and economy. Digital Equity is necessary for civic and cultural participation, employment, lifelong learning, and access to essential services. Sometimes called TEQuity/Tech Equity which is the shortening of technology equity.

Digital Literacy
The ability to use information and communication technologies to find, evaluate, create, and communicate information, requiring both cognitive and technical skills.

Digital Navigators
Trusted guides who assist community members with ongoing, individualized support for accessing affordable and appropriate connectivity, devices, and digital skills.

Thanks for Sponsoring

More information here: https://www.literacymn.org/digital-equity-navigation#one-network-newsletter

Join the mailing list here: https://www.literacymn.org/one-network-signup

Questions, comments, or concerns? - Contact Frances Bates at fbates@literacymn.org.

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