



A rural library trustee confronts technology

by

Denise A. Garofalo

Trustee, Marlboro (NY) Free Library



Rural public libraries

- Independent
- Core information providers
- Anxious about technology issues



Public Internet access for

- Employment and business
- Education
- Communication
- Entertainment
- Community
- Hobbies



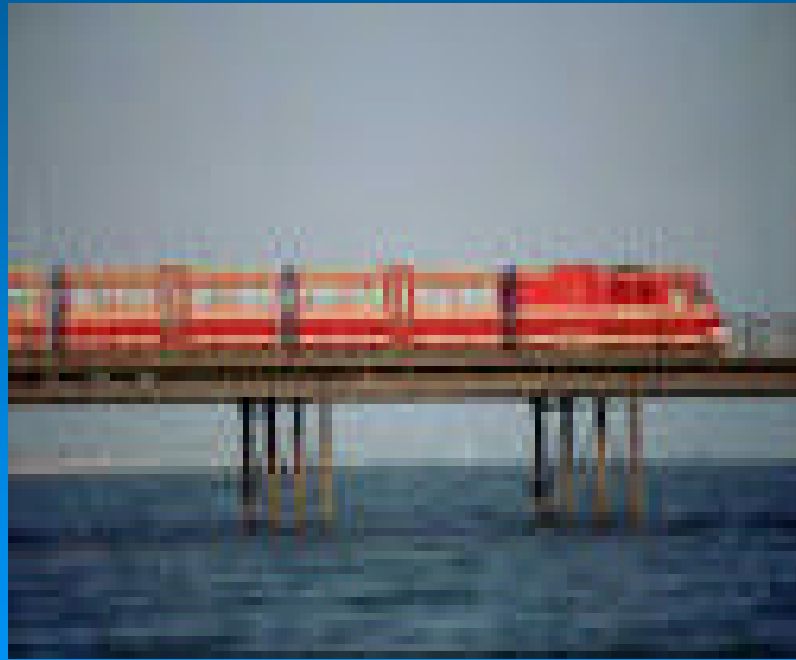
Challenges

- Limited staff
- Support
- Budget
- Patron perceptions

Money becomes the engine...



...that drives the train...



...and library service
ultimately suffers.



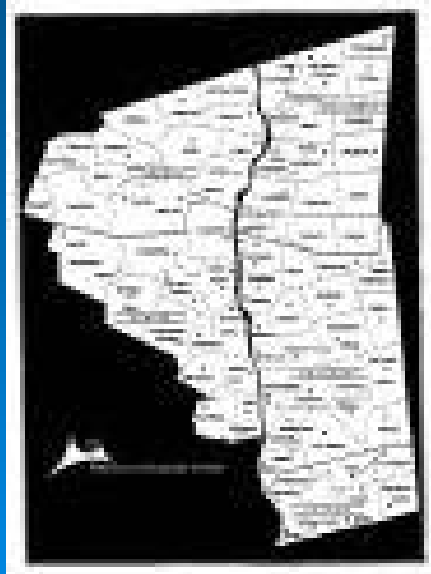
Marlboro Free Library



Marlboro, NY

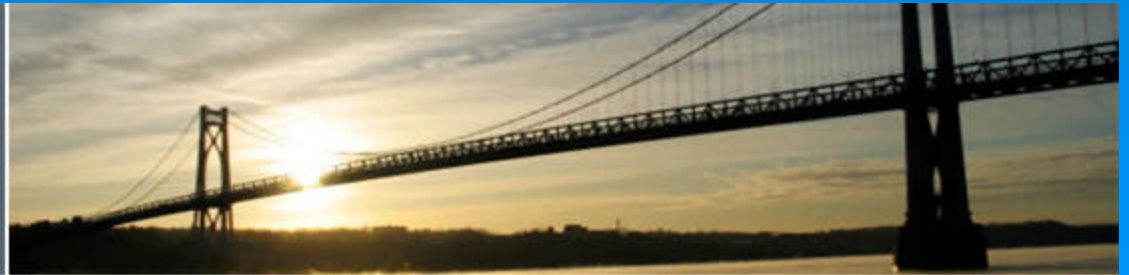


Mid-Hudson Library System



**Mid-Hudson
Library System**

*Public Library
Catalog*





Technology leasing

- Fixed budget cost
- Minimum staff time
- Disposal handled
- Upgrades and lease decrease





Leasing vs. purchase

- Considerations
 - Staff time
 - Maintenance
 - Support
 - Budget line item





Tech support

- Library staff member = regular library duties + tech support knowledge
- Interface between problem and trustees

Public Internet Access





Issues

- Sign-ups
- Time limits
- Printers and paper
- Internet use policy enforcement



Solution

- Cooperative purchase of software
 - Lower purchase and maintenance costs
 - Provides:
 - Signing-in via library card
 - Time limit enforcement
 - Paper allocation
 - Internet Use Policy messages
 - Detailed usage statistics



Trustees

- Seek cooperative ventures
- Investigate alternative technology equipment acquisition
- Present library as the *community's* information resource

