Purpose of Special Agenda/Meeting:

To vote on equipment to be purchased for the circulation automation of the library’s materials including those necessary to input the catalog into the Librarika system. Also to track usage of the Hoopla system.

Reference: Email from library’s IT expert, Randy Hammill:

Here’s some pricing and recommendations for the library. The goal, as I understand, is to replace the existing laptop, which is several years old, with a new Mac laptop. One of the primary uses will be for cataloging and managing the library’s collection electronically.

Macs are great systems and a good choice because you’ll generally get a longer useable life. This is in part because they are premium systems that are top-of-the-line components, but also because Apple controls both the hardware and operating system, so they are optimized for each other. Since Windows has to remain compatible for anything from a home-built computer to dozens of manufacturers using parts from hundreds of suppliers, it can never be as optimized.

The trade-off, however, is a higher up front cost. than a Windows system.

Current Mac laptops are available with one of two processors. Intel processors (also used in Windows PCs) which they are phasing out,
and Apple processors. The Apple processors not only perform better, but they further optimize the performance of the system. During this transition period, a lot of older software runs in an emulation mode, but the performance is still very good, and as those programs are updated to use Apple’s processors, performance will improve.

In my opinion, if you are going to switch to Mac, the Apple processor is the better choice.

This gives you three MacBooks to choose from, differentiated primarily by screen size: MacBook Air (13”), or MacBook Pro (14” or 16”).

In addition to the smaller screen size, the MacBook Air is a fanless design. Because it cannot cool the system as efficiently, that also reduces the maximum performance, even with the same processor. So it sounds like the MacBook Pro is the better choice.

The base 14” MacBook Pro is $1,999.

The base 16” MacBook Pro is $2,499.

I may be able to get a bump in specs for those prices. But the base specs are very good. I will be able to get two years of AppleCare+ (normally $200) for no additional charge. That includes accidental damage coverage, such as damage to the screen.

Because these will be used to catalog books, I suggested that getting an iPad for that purpose would be more flexible. Both can be paired with a UPC scanner, but the tablet would be easier to carry than the laptop for that purpose. Because if the way Apple devices integrate, I would not recommend an Android tablet for this purpose. Once again, the iPad will also perform better and be more stable because they control the hardware and software. This is an optional addition, but the least expensive iPad is $349. This would also include two years of AppleCare+ at no additional charge if I get the systems for you.
My charge for setup, configuration, transfer of the data from the old system, etc. is a flat $200.

Let me know if you have any questions. Thanks!

Randy Hammill, JPR IT, LLC