



# A rural library trustee confronts technology

by

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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



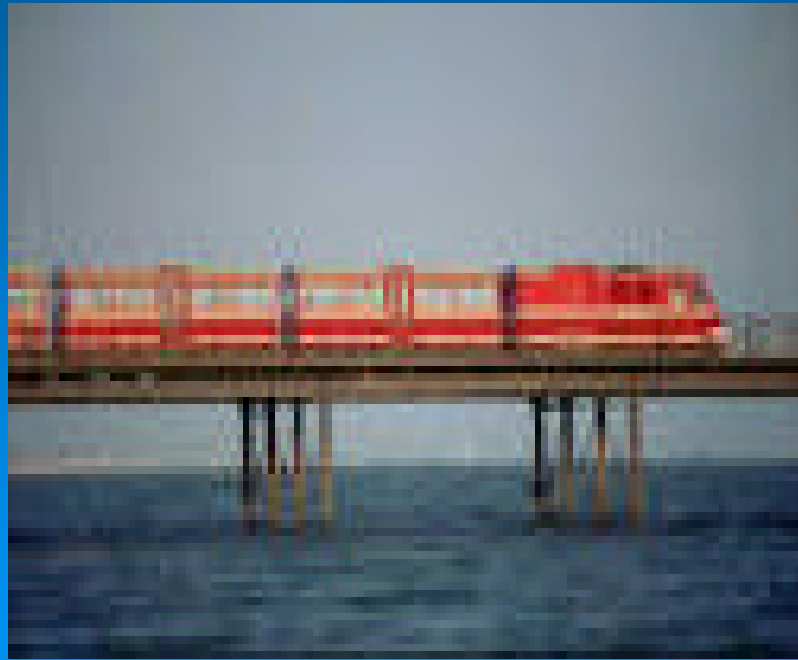
# Challenges

- Limited staff
- Support
- Budget
- Patron perceptions

**Money becomes the engine...**



...that drives the train...



**...and library service  
ultimately suffers.**



# Marlboro Free Library

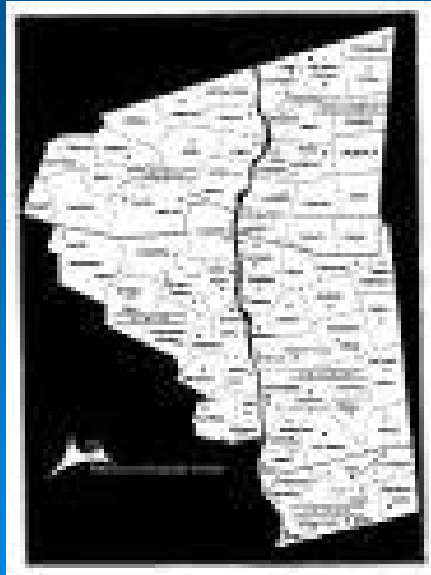




# Marlboro, NY

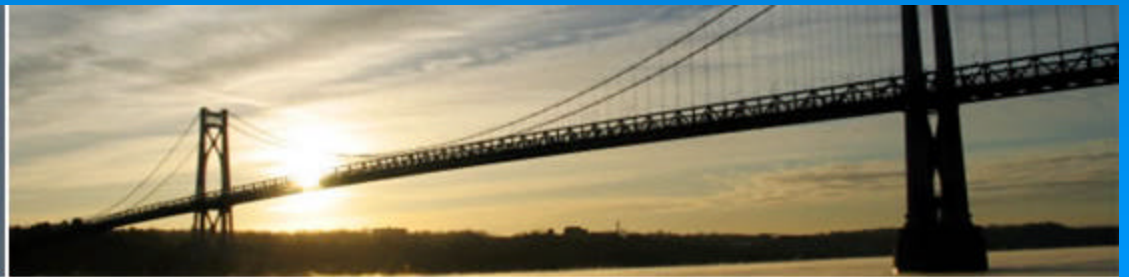


# Mid-Hudson Library System



**Mid-Hudson  
Library System**

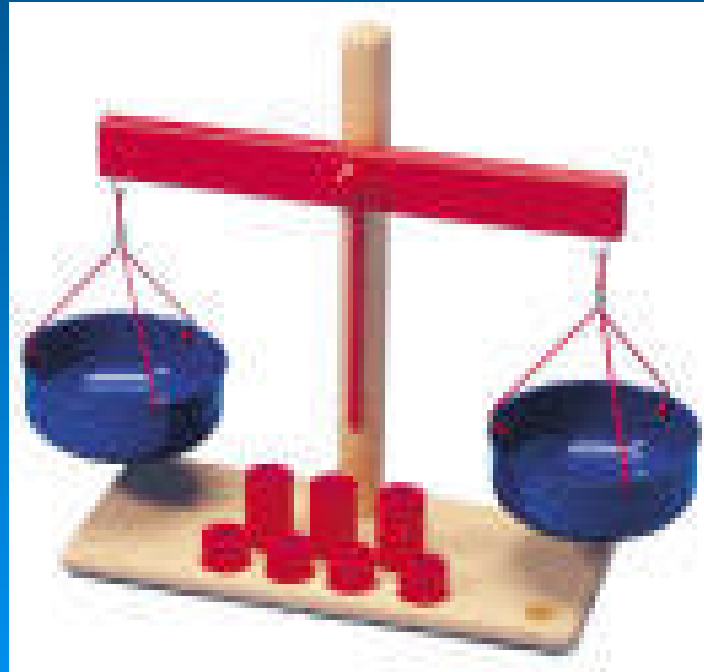
*Public Library  
Catalog*





# 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

