

E-Info in a Box for Small Libraries

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People living in a rural environment need just as much access to information as people living in an urban center. The problem generally is that it is harder to find financial support for a small, rural library where the cost of maintenance of equipment, purchase of software and access to e-content is prohibitively expensive.

Small libraries have little room to spare in order to create an environment conducive to desktop or even laptop computer technology. Repair centers are not close by and equipment has to be shipped out when not operational. One of the biggest problems is connectivity. Cable in many instances is not available, neither is DSL, with dial-up being the only choice.

New technology can be useful in overcoming some of these problems, if we can add on to the present manufacturer's configurations. OCLC could partner with equipment manufactures' to add e-content designed specifically for these instruments forming a partnership with worldwide ramifications to libraries serving rural populations.