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Wireless printing, Wifi Hotspots and other gadgets expand Library's tech offerings

February 17, 2016 (Canton, Ohio) – Stark County District Library is adding a fresh batch of new gadgets and services to its growing collection of technology offerings. True to its branding as The Smart Store, where everything is free®, all of the new items are free to check out with a Library card.

New technology gadgets:
The new items, including Wifi Hotspots, Kill-O-Watt Electricity Monitors and Speck Air Quality Monitors, are available immediately for patrons to borrow. Each item offers a smart new value for Library patrons, expanding beyond the collection mainstays of books, CDs and DVDs.

Wifi Hotspots: Wifi Hotspots allow patrons to take the internet home with them or anywhere that there's a cell signal. Patrons can use the hotspots to stay connected on vacation or for everyday needs for work, school and personal use. The hotspots provide instant, free, high-speed internet access almost anywhere.

Kill-O-Watt electricity monitors: Kill-O-Watt electricity monitors read and display the power usage of any appliance and allow users to find the energy hogs in their home. Measuring energy usage can help users to decrease energy use and the cost associated with it.

Speck air quality monitors: Speck air quality monitors detect fine particulate matter in indoor environments. Users simply plug it into an outlet and the monitor begins reporting air quality information. The monitor works on its own, and by downloading the free mobile app the user can explore the data even further.

"As we move into the future at the Library we are excited to offer new and unique items for our patrons to borrow," said Greg Burlingame, Director of Collection Development . "Particularly, offering Wifi Hotspots can make a huge impact on some people in our community, and we are excited to see the results."

Wireless Printing: In addition to new items for patrons to borrow, the Library is also introducing wireless printing at all of its locations. With wireless printing, Library patrons can print from their laptop, tablet

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or smart phone to the color printer at any branch location. A nominal fee is charged for the use of paper and ink.

Even more interestingly, patrons don't even have to be at the Library to print. They can send a document to the secure printer queue from home, school, work, or anywhere else in the world. Once they arrive at the Library, it's a simple matter to release the document to the printer and print it out.

Bryan Harris, Director of Information Technology, is excited to improve customer experience through wireless printing. "We see a high number of patrons who come in with their own laptop or device to study, work, and access the Library's wifi. Wireless printing via wifi gives those patrons an additional service, encouraging them to continue using the Library in new and interesting ways."

The new gadgets and wireless printing are available through all ten Library locations. To learn more about the latest technology available from your Smart Store, visit https://starklibrary.org/spring-2016#tech.

ABOUT THE LIBRARY
One of the 8 largest library systems in Ohio – and the county's oldest library -- Stark County District Library serves the community through 10 locations, six mobile libraries, and a 24/7 digital branch.

A 2009 winner of the prestigious National Medal for library service, the Library serves over 100,000 active cardholders, annually circulating 3.5 million items from its 1.2 million item collection and providing access to an additional 66 million items from lending networks throughout Ohio. Each year the library presents nearly 8,000 programs for 170,000 attendees and provides 280,000 computer sessions on the publicly available computers found in each branch.

Today, as it reimagines itself as The Smart Store, where everything is free®, the Library is emerging as a national thought-leader with innovations such as its "no overdue fines" policy, the recently launched BikeSmart bike sharing network, and the Start Smart School Partnership.

For more information, call 330.452.0665 or visit http://www.starklibrary.org.

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