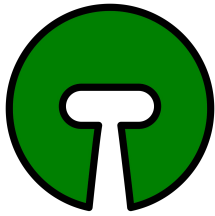


Project name: The Chapel Library

Organization Name: OpenTech Ministries, Inc.



## **OpenTech Ministries, Inc.**

“We help others *do* technology.”

317 Taylor Street  
Fredericksburg, VA 22405  
(540) 408-4155

### **VISION:**

Make technology easily accessible to normal people.

### **MISSION STATEMENT:**

OpenTech Ministries, Inc. is a 501(c)3 non-profit that is dedicated to helping people and organizations by providing them with invaluable technology awareness, resources and advice that helps them to meet their vision in the 21st Century. This includes

Useful applications at no cost

Computer troubleshooting, upgrades & repair

Classes & Training certifications for various applications

Free hardware (cost-recovery basis when needed)

### **PROJECT:**

TheChapelLibrary.com, a.k.a. “The Chapel Library”

### **PROBLEM:**

Hundreds of Department of Defense (DoD) Chapels and thousands of churches have no way of effectively keeping track of their library and media resources. There is no form of easy cataloging or access to a larger pool of resources. Materials are expensive and many smaller libraries often opt for a legal pad to attempt to maintain a record of who is responsible for checked-out books. This system (or even a paper card catalog system) requires physical presence at the library to visually search for a particular resource, and it fails to effectively meet the needs of the families it attempts to serve.

### **SOLUTION:**

Provide a web-based Online Public Access Catalog (OPAC) that allows DoD Chapels and other local churches to easily track, check-out/in, inventory and search their holdings locally, as well as search and browse the holdings of all other libraries in the system. This search can conveniently be done from any web browser, and any member can request an item hold, inter-library loan or local pick-up.

In addition, chaplains and pastors, who often have extensive personal libraries of their own, can track their holdings, as well as make them viewable to either their own congregation or to all members on the system. Educational resources, music resources and media-based resources will all be cataloged accordingly, and their information can be viewed and tracked... much like larger Public Libraries at large.

Libraries will now have a way to track their own holdings, as well as contribute and have access to a much larger pool of resources, to include:

- Books
- Magazines
- Theological resources (commentaries, etc.)

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- Video, audio, recorded sermons, etc.
- Instructional material (DVD series, Bible studies, etc.)
- Ability to study trends of frequently requested items to better meet constituent needs

Use of the system is open to all DoD Chapels at no cost (see \*\*Note in “Cost Analysis” section below). The only limiting factor is how quickly OpenTech Ministries can add them to the system. The software and computer do not distinguish between five or five thousand libraries, so once it is up and running, there are few limiting factors to the number of chapels or churches (and their families) that we can help

#### **SCENARIO 1:**

A user goes to <http://TheChapelLibrary.com> and logs in. They will then be able to search the holdings, by default, at their local Chapel. If the result is not sufficient, they can expand the search to all local libraries, statewide, regional or even to the national level (system-wide). If another library has the resource they need, they can go pick the item up, request a hold on the item, request an inter-library loan (to their own local library), or ask that it be sent directly to them, depending on what level the library has agreed to participate in ahead of time.

#### **SCENARIO 2:**

A Sunday school class wants to use a video series that costs a lot of money. They may not be able to pay several hundred dollars for the instructional DVD set, but a nearby Church or Chapel may have purchased and already completed the series. Using the OPAC, the class can find, request and checkout out the series and simply return it when completed, having only to purchase the workbooks necessary. This is a tremendous savings that directly impacts the families being ministered to.

#### **IMPACT:**

This project directly impacts the availability of Spiritual resources to individuals and their families. It increases the resources available to pastors, chaplains, staff, teachers and provides a simple way to multiply effectiveness by leveraging existing components. The monetary savings will allow for redistribution of funds to other critical areas that impact families in other ways.

#### **TECHNICAL PARAMETERS:**

- The software being used is an Open-Source Software (OSS) package call Evergreen (<http://www.open-ils.org>), which is the same software package used by the Georgia Statewide Public Library System.
- Equinox Software (<http://esilibrary.com/esi/>) is a company that is comprised of the original Evergreen software developers. They will be hosting the OPAC and will maintain all software upgrades and security updates, as well as provide technical support per the ASP contract.
- In addition to the base features provided, we will be paying for development of a few core features that will enhance the overall effectiveness of the system. The primary one will allow for offline use of the catalog in a browser plug-in format. This means a separate client program will not need to be installed in order to access all the necessary features for check-in/out. Installation of programs is often forbidden on DoD computers, and this will alleviate the problem, as well as contribute back to the entire Evergreen project in the spirit of Open Source Software. Other minor features pertain to addition search and listing criteria (opt-in, opt-out, etc.) that will enhance the flexibility of the entire system.
- One of the critical factors in making the system easily accessible is ensuring that easy-to-follow tutorials are created that walk the user step-by-step through every aspect of the program. The documentation for the Evergreen project is adequate for librarians who use it on a daily basis, but it

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is not appropriate for casual users. As such, we will offer up rewards or bounties for solid tutorials submitted by the Evergreen Community.

- Universal, unique ID numbers will be used for each bibliographic item.
- On initial data entry, the librarian will scan in the UPC, wait for the download (usually 80% can be done this way) and the spine label will be created (perhaps one for the book and one for the library).
- Each user or family needs a unique library card to the system with current contact information (this can be verified when they check out materials).

**PROJECTED COST FOR FIRST YEAR:**

|                                                |           |            |
|------------------------------------------------|-----------|------------|
| ASP Hosting and Technical Support:             | \$        | TBD        |
| Programming and Feature Requests:              | \$        | TBD        |
| <u>Training Costs &amp; Tutorial Creation:</u> | <u>\$</u> | <u>TBD</u> |
| <b>Total Cost:</b>                             | <b>\$</b> | <b>TBD</b> |

**\*\*NOTE:** DoD Chapels are normally required to distribute their collected offerings primarily to 501(c)3 non-profits like OpenTech Ministries, Inc. We charge nothing for use of the OPAC system located at TheChapelLibrary.com, and we rely strictly on donations to keep it and many of our other projects going. While we do not charge, we do ask for consideration of a donation to help the overall funding our organization. This request has typically been met with positive feedback and results.

**PROJECTED TIMELINE:**

- **July 2008** – Equinox ASP will be available to OpenTech (we are in their queue)
- **July 2008** – NorthStar Church Network will be added (very small and they have agreed to help test the tutorials and fine-tune the process using volunteers)
- **August 2008** – Marine Corps Base Quantico Chapel (Marine Memorial Chapel at Quantico, VA) will be added
- **August 2008** – Fredericksburg Area Baptist Association will be added (volunteer testers)
- **September 2008** – Naval Air Station Fort Worth Joint Reserve Base (Fort Worth, TX) and Fort Belvoir Chapel (Norther Virginia) will be added.
- **September 2008** – Portfolio Package will be sent to additional DoD chapels at a rate that can be realistically sustainable. By this time, we should have enough volunteers in place to help deploy the system rapidly. Our goal is one hundred libraries in the first year, which will make resources available to several hundred thousand military members and their families.