

Washington State Library Microsoft IT Academy

What is the IT Academy program for Washington libraries and what are the benefits:

- 1) The Microsoft IT Academy (ITA) program provides industry-leading technology skills to help bridge the skills gap. The Microsoft IT Academy provides patrons with the future ready technology skills they need to be successful in college and a career.
- 2) Allows Librarians and Patrons to learn the latest Microsoft Technology
- 3) Digital Literacy can be used as a remedial tool for some patrons and as a means of exploring new topics for others. Digital Literacy includes E-learning and assessments so patrons can skip concepts they have mastered and focus on the topics they need to round out their skills set. Digital Literacy starts at the most basic level such as how to use a mouse, includes standard courses such as computer basics and the Internet, advanced courses such as creating an e-mail account and creating a resume. Digital Literacy participants may pass a test to earn a Digital Literacy certificate. Digital Literacy is open to all and does not require entry to the full IT Academy site.
- 3) The IT Academy also provides the Microsoft E-Learning curriculum which provides unlimited access to hundreds of courses aligning with Microsoft technology. E-Learning is available in multiple languages. E-Learning covers both the Microsoft Office family of products and covers the technologies which are appropriate for IT Professionals such as Windows Server, SQL Server, ASP.NET and Visual Studio.
- 4) E-reference provides digital access for librarians to over 789 Microsoft technology books, searchable by topic, technology, and subject. You cannot download the entire book. You can print, e-mail or bookmark pages and sections for later use or for patrons/staff who need a deeper knowledge on a particular topic. Five staff per library outlet (branch or main library) will have access to these resources.

E-Learning is flexible, self-paced, and tracks progress. E-Learning includes test banks for participants to assess what they have learned and what they may need to further review.
- 5) E-Learning provides customizable lesson plans for use by library staff and trainers. It also provides access to the Microsoft Office Specialist (MOS) Teacher Starter Kit, and the Microsoft Technology Associate (MTA) Teacher Starter Kit.
- 6) The Washington State Library Microsoft IT Academy does not include certification for customer participants. They will need to pay for certification testing on their own. The IT Academy does include a tool for locating testing centers on their site.

The IT Academy does include 10 MOS exam vouchers and 10 MTA exam vouchers per library outlet (main library or branch). These are specifically for staff professional development.