

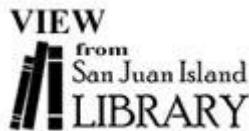
Microsoft IT Academy may meet tech training needs of islanders

SJI Library

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Due to a new partnership between Washington State Library and Microsoft, the IT Academy is now available to San Juan Islanders at no cost.

It is a terrific opportunity for online study of Microsoft applications. The options run the gamut from basic training in applications like Word to advanced-level training that would allow a person to get a job as a system administrator.

I'll be signing up to improve my skills in Word 2013. You may be like me, and frustrated because you knew Office 2007 well, but upgrades have left you in the dust. You can learn many Office 2013 programs, but you can also learn 2010 versions, if that is the application on the computer you use.

All the training is self-paced and online. Users may choose library or home computers, or a combination of both, to access the site. Library staff will be available to offer very minimal assistance to beginning level users. Course certification is also available but will need to be paid for by those taking the courses.

Become college and career ready. Learn the skills (and get certifications) for today's technology-centered job market. Choose which courses to take that make sense for your goals.

The online ITA training expands the technology training program available at the Library. In-person classes will continue to be available, and islanders may currently sign up for a course on getting started using computers that begins March 3. Library staff are often available on a one-on-one basis to help with technology training, such as establishing an email account or using eBooks.

We may also expand occasional programs in technology skills. We've offered three programs in January on borrowing library eBooks. For some of us, it's great to receive a gift of a new device like a Kindle or iPad, but we need a little help the first time learning to use it. If library staff can't help you immediately, we can make an appointment and try to see that you get some help with your tech issues.

If you have great tech skills, we could also use your help as a volunteer in the effort to get Everyone On and using technology for the 21st Century. If you'd like to volunteer, call or email me.

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