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REGIONAL LIBRARY  
ONLINE & ON TIMELibrary  
Due for  
Some  
ChangesBy FRANK VINHUN  
Times-Herald-Republic

By midsummer, reserving a library book is any branch of the Yakima Valley Regional Library will be as simple as a few key strokes from a home computer.

The library's Windows NT computer system became active for circulation this week, giving patrons the opportunity to search and reserve books through the Internet, Yakima, Summitview and Selah library branches activated the system for circulation on Wednesday.

The Summitview and Tappanish branches are scheduled to activate their systems on Monday. Throughout July, the remaining 14 libraries will be phased into the computer system one by one, said Yakima Valley Regional Library Director Anne Haley.

"We're bringing them up one at a time to ensure that we're doing it with the fewest amount of problems," Haley said.

Once the system is operational in all 19 branches, patrons won't even need to go to a library to search the collection; an Internet connection in all a user will need to search all of the library's branches. The new system also will allow patrons to place holds on books through the library's Web site, with a limit of 25 total items, regardless of subject. (The library system's Web address is [www.yvrlib.org](http://www.yvrlib.org).)

Whereas the old computer system allowed only author and title searches, the new system gives library patrons the added capability of searching for books by subject. People will still need to go to the library to pick up their books, but the biggest change will be seen in the smaller library branches, none of which had used a hand charging system for checking out books.

Money for the new computer system came in part from a \$218,000 state grant in 1997. The move to the new system was originally scheduled for November, but the libraries needed more time to install it, Haley explained. Library staff also added bar codes to the more than 340,000 items in all 19 libraries to ensure that items on the shelves matched the records in the system.

The old computer system that the staff used to keep track of library holdings often caused book records, making it difficult to find books, Haley said.

In the Windows-based system, patrons will be able to check books out for a full month instead of two weeks, but they also will have to pay fines for overdue books. The library has not issued fines for overdue materials. The inability of the old system to keep accurate records made it difficult to enforce the timely return of books, Haley said.

Borrowers will be fined 50 cents for each overdue book. An additional \$5 will be added to the fine for a book two weeks late. After 30 days, the library will have the matter to a collection agency. Haley did not know when the fine policy would go into effect.

Once all 19 libraries are active on the new computer system, there will be a grace period for library patrons to become accustomed to the new policy, Haley said.

■ Reporter Frank Vinhun can be reached by phone at 577-7626 or

YAKIMA VALLEY  
REGIONAL LIBRARY  
ONLINE & ON TIME  
Wednesday, December 1, 1999 • 3 B

## New 'Net Filters Haven't Arrived

The Yakima Valley Regional Library will have an unfiltered and filtered access on Internet terminals in each of its 19 branches.

The filter system, known as Bess, is being donated by the Seattle-based software company, N2H2. Its filtering system blocks objectionable Web pages through a comprehensive database of rated sites.

"Our trained professionals examine thousands of Web sites each day to determine which ones should be added to our database," says the company on its Web site, [www.N2H2.com](http://www.N2H2.com).

The Bess filtering system is used by Seattle Public Schools, Seattle Public Library, and the Sno-Isle Regional Library. Those public libraries also offer unfiltered Internet access.

Yakima Valley Regional Library Director Anne Haley said the filter will arrive shortly. Until then, Haley said library staff will set up mirrors on an existing filtering system, providing they've been granted parental permission.

Yakima Herald.com

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## More local libraries get high-speed Internet

YAKIMA HERALD-REPUBLIC

Three more Yakima County libraries got high-speed Internet connections this month, with the rest soon to follow.

The Yakima Regional Library branches in Granger, Mabton and Terrace Heights were added to the county's high-speed system, bringing the total to eight. The downtown Yakima library and branches in Hixone, Naches, Tappanish and Wapato were already connected to that system. The Zillah branch will be added in January.

The remainder of the Regional Library's 19 branches will upgrade their Internet connections to high speed during the first half of 2009, said Kim Hixson, the library system's interim director.

The upgrades reflect increasing demand for the Internet, she said.

"Our computers are very busy," Hixson said. "It is a very popular service."

Yakima Herald-Republic September 28, 1999

Library to Demystify  
Internet for Patrons

www.whattheheck.com

Ever have to call in your Year-Old to help you log onto the Internet, or ever worry you don't know enough about the 'Net to protect your kids?

Well, folks, fret no more. Yakima Valley Regional Library will host two free "Introduction to the Internet for Parents" classes next month. They'll meet from 7 to 8 p.m. Oct. 12 at the Granger Library, 508 Sunnyside Ave., and 7 to 8 p.m. Oct. 13 at the Yakima Library, 102 N. Third St.

The workshops will introduce some common Net terms and show parents how to find appropriate educational and entertainment sites for different ages using the library system's Web site. The classes will also offer some basic steps for keeping children and

LOCAL HISTORY

## CHECK THE CALENDAR

■ Listings of community interest are in the daily calendar inside the Home Front section.

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Yakima Herald-Republic

July 16, 1997

## Check it out: Library will be going online in fall

By JOSEPH ROSE

Times-Herald-Republic

Like man and Mary, Yakima public library patron Neil Rose is itching to explore the new world of information in cyberspace.

If only the library offered Internet access, he said.

"I'd like to see 3-D pictures of those space rocks," Rose said, referring to a NASA Internet website he read about in a magazine. The site features panoramic and 3-D photos from the Mars Pathfinder mission.

Actually, the countdown to public Internet access at the Yakima Valley Regional Library

began last month with a federal grant worth an estimated \$80,000.

Launch date: late September. From Naches to Pong, 20 affiliated libraries will each receive one Internet-connected workstation and staff training through the Library Services and Construction Act.

Adopted by the Washington State Legislature on June 25, the purpose of the grant is to help public libraries link to the Internet. That includes rural and less-urban areas where people might not be able to otherwise access new technology.

Applying for the grant was an

evolutional step, given that "libraries are in the business of providing information," said regional library Director Anne Haley.

But that as it may, limited funds has left the Yakima Valley's regional library system lagging behind in the cyber-race. Despite heavy demand, none of the area's libraries offer public Internet access.

Meanwhile, libraries in Ellensburg, Walla Walla and the Tri-Cities started installing public Internet stations months ago.

Celeste Kline, director of the Ellensburg Public Library, said her library began its project

with a single Internet station, but found that wasn't enough. People were always waiting to use it, she said.

Now the Ellensburg library has three stations. Talk about going outside your walls for information," Kline said of the Internet. "It has increased the available information resources 100 times."

Haley said the library also is pursuing a separate grant to replace its existing computer system and put its card catalog online.

"Progress is great," said Yakima

source Ginger Hillman, perusing a stack of magazines at the library Monday. "It will be wonderful to have the ability to research anything. And I will search anything."

The Yakima Valley FreeNet Foundation is working to make Internet access universal, granted projects as needed steps in bridging the digital gap. Haley said the library also has and have one.

"We're hoping we can use the libraries as a launching point for a computer network," said FreeNet board member Wendy Warrington.

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