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*“The only thing constant in life is change.”*

The Deschutes Public Library is taking all this to heart. Several new initiatives are underway to incorporate emerging technology into the timeless mission of the public library—to support reading and life-long learning, to build community, and to promote culture. Technology won't change that mission, but it is changing the face of the public library.

Francois's maxim is directly applicable to our electronic services—the only thing constant about our web site and online catalog is change. It evolves every day. My favorite new library web service is *NextReads*. It's a great example of how technology can be used to promote the traditional values of reading and self-development. Sign up for one of the online electronic newsletters and you will receive a list of recommended titles monthly. Choose from over twenty newsletters, with themes ranging from “Mystery” to “Nature and Science.” Click on a title in the newsletter and it will take you directly to the record in the online catalog.

Francois would be quick to remind us that societal change comes in many forms—that emerging technology is only one of many issues to be addressed. The most significant change in Central Oregon is the growing population and changing demographics. Juniper Ridge is a good example—this proposed development in Northwest Bend is projected to have a population of 10,000 to 16,000. That's larger than the populations currently served by any of our smaller branch libraries—and Juniper Ridge is just *one* example of a large number of new communities that will need public library service.

The Library District is addressing these challenges. A grant has been secured to develop strategies to assist the growing Latino population to transition to life in Central Oregon. A formal planning process is underway to identify current and projected gaps in library services, and to propose strategies to fill those gaps over the next ten years. Everything from additional branch libraries to books-by-mail is on the table.

Francois sends a message across time from the 17th century that change is inevitable, and that it should be welcomed as an opportunity to improve and evolve. The public library's mission to promote reading and literacy is timeless, but the methods of providing those services are constantly evolving to respond to our changing communities and emerging technologies.

We trust that Francois would approve!

*Michael Gaston, Director  
Deschutes Public Library*

## **The Deschutes Public Library**

**Bend Public Library**  
601 NW Wall Street  
Bend, Oregon 97701  
617-7040

**Outreach Services**  
507 NW Wall Street  
Bend, Oregon 97701  
312-1035

**La Pine Public Library**  
16425 1st Street  
La Pine, Oregon 97739  
312-1090

**Redmond Public Library**  
827 SW Deschutes Avenue  
Redmond, Oregon 97756  
312-1050

**Sisters Public Library**  
110 N Cedar Street  
Sisters, Oregon 97759  
312-1070

**Sunriver Area Public Library**  
56855 Venture Lane  
Sunriver, Oregon 97707  
312-1080



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