

# CHaPTeRS

Deschutes Public Library Newsletter

## Challenges & Opportunities

There have been remarkable improvements in the quantity, quality, and variety of services provided by the Deschutes Public Library since the Library District was formed in late 1998. The adequate, stable funding local residents provided by supporting the establishment of a countywide library district has enabled the library staff to remain focused upon upgrading library services. The Oregon State Library now considers Deschutes one of the top public library programs in Oregon.

The District Board and I are proud that the only unfulfilled campaign promise from 1998 is the construction of the new Sisters Library, which will be completed within the next year. With the fulfillment of these commitments, the Library District is now turning its focus to the next five years.

The Library District is being challenged by its own success. Doubling library usage has had an impact, both in terms of clerical functions as well as reference services.

Over the next year, you will notice that the District will move to provide Express Stations where patrons can check-out their own materials. This has already been tested in Redmond, where more than 80% of the books are now checked out on self-check machines. The Express Stations will free staff to handle incoming materials as well as to provide assistance to patrons looking for information.

If you haven't taken a look at the Library's web site, I would recommend that you take the time to explore the many services that are available online. You can now search full-text magazine articles or submit reference questions from your home. There are also electronic reference tools on our web site. We will be updating our catalog searching features over the next year. One exciting feature on the horizon will be the ability to request that you be alerted whenever a title by your favorite author or on a selected topic is added to the catalog.

Perhaps the most ambitious initiatives to be undertaken over the next five years will be the introduction of public library circulation stations in

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Summer 2005

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