

area schools. The concept is to build upon the existing staff in school libraries, providing training to use the public library electronic resources and online catalog. Material will be delivered to the schools for check-out by the staff of the school media center. This labor-intensive service will be tested over the next two years with three area schools.

Additional schools will be added to the service as resources allow. This program has the potential of serving over 25,000 students in the 38 public school libraries in Deschutes County.

Planning has just begun on establishing one or more additional branch libraries to serve the growing populations in east Bend. The Library will spend the next year mapping demographics in order to identify likely locations. The size and scope of the branch libraries will be designed to complement the existing Bend Library, which is located in downtown Bend. This will be an exciting project which will take several years to complete. The preliminary goal is to establish at least one branch library on the east side of Bend within five years.

As you can see, the Library has a number of challenges and opportunities ahead. While we are very proud of the accomplishments that were achieved over the past five years, we are just as excited about the future.

Michael K. Gaston
District Library Director

The Library District has identified four priorities that will need to be addressed in the coming years:

- 1** Maintain and enhance the quality of library service while library usage continues to increase at a rapid rate.
- 2** Provide web access to library services using the latest technology.
- 3** Increase services to teens, with a special focus upon supplementing the school libraries which have been devastated by the current school funding crisis.
- 4** Establish one or more branch libraries to serve the growing population in east Bend and in the area between Bend and Redmond.