

Check it Out Column for week of September 20-26

Library Upgrades Computer System

By Kathy Stutzman, WCPL Community Relations Assistant

Recently my husband, Micheal, began going to college. He eagerly started one of his computer classes. Unfortunately, our desktop computer was too old to handle the current software versions. Back to square one. Short of pulling out the hair he still has (sorry, honey), he is now going to his school at odd hours to fulfill class assignments.

I think we have all been there a time or two. We buy new software, however, our older computers have a compatibility problem with the software. Frustration begins building. It's either buy a new computer or shelve the software that cost big bucks to begin with.

This past year the library had a similar dilemma, continue using an outdated computer system or update to a new one. Keeping in mind the many patrons using our computers for schoolwork, finding employment, filing for social security benefits, and etc., the decision was to step out in faith and replace the ailing system we had been using for seven years.

As with any new piece of equipment there has been a learning curve and some kinks here and there. However, the payoff has been and will be worth the time and effort. The new computer system will help library users by making it easier for them to locate a book, look up an online news story, and speed up the checkout process.

Readers, you can now write book reviews, set up book lists for your book club, renew books, and put books on hold. You can even access your account to determine if there are any late fees, items overdue, pending holds, how many items are checked out, and if there are any arrived holds. In fact, you can even view what position you are in the "hold" queue for a resource item. I love this!

Try out the innovative mapping feature that will guide you to the specific library shelf where the latest bestseller is. This new system enables you to be actively engaged in the library collections, use a rating system on items you have read and reviewed as well as add tags to existing library subject headings that make better sense to you personally.

You are invited to come in and explore the new system and discover for yourself how easy it is to use. For more information on Warsaw Community Public Library's new library system, contact 267-6011.

What are you waiting for? Come on in and try it!

