



BROOKS MEMORIAL LIBRARY

BROOKS LIBRARY IS AWARDED GRANT TO UPDATE PUBLIC ACCESS COMPUTERS WILL CLOSE FRIDAY, 10 TO 2, JANUARY 25 FOR INSTALLATION

[Brattleboro] The Brooks Memorial Library has received a \$5,250 grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to upgrade its public access computing resources. The library will be installing the new computers on Thursday, January 24 and the morning of Friday January 25.

There will be no access to computers during the installation. The Library will be closed from 10 am until 2 pm on Friday, January 25 in order to provide staff training. Wireless access, however, will be available.

According to Library Director Jerry Carbone, "We are really excited to be upgrading our 7 year old Gates public computers with the purchase of a turnkey, public access system from Useful Corporation, a Canadian firm that specializes in public access computer systems. My staff and I have seen Useful system in use in libraries and were very impressed with their orientation and sensitivity to the special needs of public libraries."

Useful has been in business since 1999 and their DiscoverStation solution for public libraries has been used in libraries since 2002.

The library will replace 7 PC's that are more than 7 years old, which will increase the total number of PC's available to the public to 17. Four of these will remain "catalog only" but will have access to the valuable library full text databases. The software of Discoverstation is based on Linux operating system Useful designs and configures its own PC's to allow as many as 4 monitors to share one computer.

The software will have patron authentication; session management; centralized administrative control; firewall and virus protection; PC reservation; built in suite of productivity software -- Full office suite; Diagramming and graphing applications; Photo editor; Adobe® Acrobat TM Reader; Multimedia sound and video players; HTML editor; Graphics and drawing editor; CD burning application; and a Genealogy tool.

The system also protects library patron confidentiality so that personal information would not be available to the next person logging on to the computer.

In the past year the Library saw patrons log nearly 9,000 hours of computer usage. Since the library has a high speed connection, patrons with only dialup and a computer will be able to reserve a high speed computer at the library over the Internet. "Many people still have dialup or cannot use their office computer to access the Internet, with "Pre-Book," they can quickly logon and reserve a time to use the library's computer," says Carbone.

Additional funding for this project comes from the Vermont Public Library Foundation and an unrestricted bequest from the Trustees.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

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