Audio, Video Tapes To Get a New Home, Denver Post, March 19, 1995

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Special to The Denver Poet
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ing this week.

Eventually, the library will have three CD players, five videocassetic recorders, and two cassette players, allowing customers to try out the selections without taking them home.

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The library also plans to steadily increase its catalog of audio and video items.

The completed library will be much easier for customers to use because all the video and audio resources will be in one place, rather than scattered throughout various departments.

"RESTAURANTS from 101 Colorado Small Towns"



High-tech catalog serious fun for kids, adults

By Alan Gottileb Denver Post Staff Writer

Back in olden times, say 10 years ago, an elementary school student assigned a social studies report on Iowa would have trudged to the local brary, flipped through a smudged and musty card catalog or heaved open a

dog-eared encyclopedia.
Nine-year-old Megan Watts knows
nothing of such primitive practices. A
fourth grader at Denver's Greenlee
Elementary School, she did recent research on Iowa quickly and painlessly
by clicking a computer mouse on a
brightly colored computer screen at
the Denver Public Library Children's
Library.

A list of books on Iowa popped up on the screen, followed by a map of the library showing each book's location.

"Whenever I come to the library I use this," Megan said as she perused the list of books. "I'm used to using a computer because I use one at home."

The Children's Library is housed temporarily at the Byers Branch Library, 675 Santa Fe Drive, while the bigger, better version at the new Central Library is readied for its opening in September. But Kid's Catalog, which helps children gain access to the library's huge collection, is already up and running.

Kid's Catalog, conceived and de-

Kid's Catalog, conceived and designed in Denver, is being used in major city libraries from coast to coast.

Students such as Megan navigate through Kid's Catalog with a natural ease few adults achieve with computers. The catalog, with its bright pictures and simple commands, makes the task simple, even for computer neophytes.

At the new children's library, kids will have 16 computer terminals at their disposal, according to Pam Sandlian, children's library manager. Some of the terminals will feature

Any article, located by the search and dating back to 1982, can be printed or downloaded . . . even from a home computer.

CD-ROM drives, and the library will have a collection of CDs on "educational stuff" like multimedia encyclepedias and "infotainment" educational games, including Sim City, Oregon Trail, Mist and Flight Simulator.

"It's going to be really cool," Sandlian promised.

But lest adults feel left out, there will be some high-tech wonders for them to enjoy, as well. In addition to a large number of CD-ROM drives and CDs for adults on a variety of topics, the new library will feature a user-friendly electronic card catalog.

Although the existing Colorado Alliance of Resource Libraries (CARL) catalog isn't hard to use, "Everybody's Catalog" will put a friendlier face on it.

Developed by the Baltimore Public Library, Everybody's Catalog will have a lot in common with Kid's Catalog. Users can gain access to various data bases by clicking a computer

KENT DENVER SCHOOL

mouse on any of several colorful

The regular CARL catalog system will still be available. But it, too, will be bigger and better.

One of the biggest changes will be the addition of the Information Access data base, according to Carol King, DPL's manager of collection development.

CARL has for years offered the Information Access Index, which allows users to search more than 200 periodicals for a listing of articles by topic, word or author. The index quickly spits out a list of articles that match the search. The user can then go to microfilm or library stacks to find the most relevant articles.

The data base will take an additional, time-saving step. Any article, located by the search and dating back to 1982, can be printed or downloaded. And, because CARL is accessible by home computer, all this research also can be done from home.

Information Access' data base also includes searches and delivery of articles from more than 100 consumeroriented health magazines and more than 100 business periodicals. It also will offer business and company profiles and a service called Investext, which will include brokerage reports and news releases on publicly-traded companies.

And finally, users of the new Central Library will be able to check out their books on their own.

There will be four automatic check-out stations that will be ex-

tremely quick and easy to use, said Susan Pattison, manager of circula-

People who want to check out a book will simply slide their library card into a "cradle" in the check-out kiosk. Next, they'll slide the book into the cradle with the bar-code facing up. The machine spits out a receipt with the book's due date.

"It'll take all of 10 seconds per book," Pattison said. "But for people who don't feel comfortable with this system, we'll still have people behind the counter to check out your books for you."



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Body

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Language: ENGLISH

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Organization: CENTRAL LIBRARY (91%)

Industry: LIBRARIES (99%); AUDIO & VIDEO EQUIPMENT (90%); NEW CONSTRUCTION (78%); CD & DVD

DRIVES (72%)

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