



Photo by Eric Evans

While the Eugene Public Library may be friendly and cozy, many people think it is too small to meet the needs of its community.

## Public library more than just books

By Bob Waite  
Emerald Contributor

Small, warm, and user-friendly describe the Eugene Public Library's services to University students and faculty.

Offering popular titles in categories like auto repair, bicycles, civil rights, games, magic, poetry, religion, songs and yoga, patrons may also use Apple computers and a variety of services for the physically disabled, all free with a library card, which is in turn free with proof of Eugene residency.

Despite its books and services, many think Eugene's library is too small. The Eugene City Council is considering moving the library to the vacant Sears building downtown, although, James Meeks, head city librarian, said many students and faculty use the public library.

"Some students and faculty find the city library easier to use than the UO Library," said Meeks, who added the sheer size of the University library intimidates some people.

"We use the Dewey decimal system, used in high schools, rather than the Library of Congress system used by the UO library," Meeks said.

Lacking the raw volume of scholarly research material at

the University library, Meeks said the public library offers a wealth of popular material in addition to a very accessible periodical department.

Another strength, said Meeks, is the public library's children's collection, unavailable at the UO library.

However, Meeks maintains the library is too small. Built for a population of 50,000 in

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