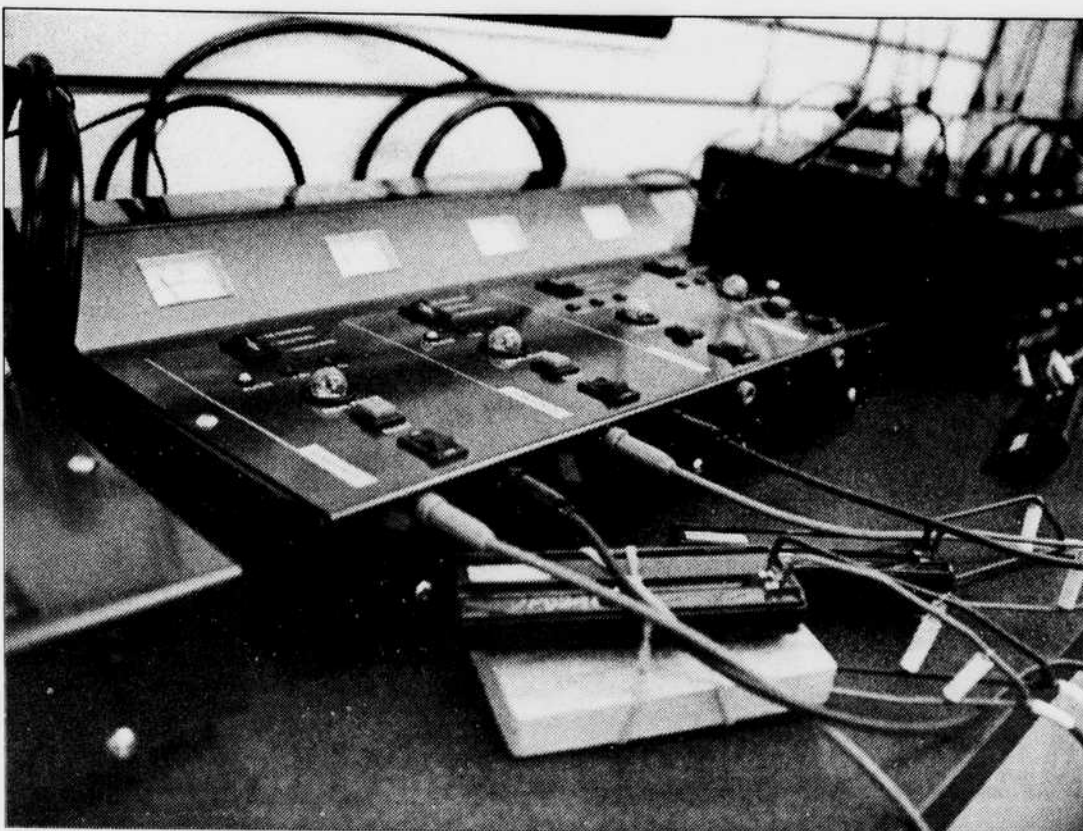




AMANDA COWAN/Emerald

The University Bookstore now has a battery reconditioning station that can recharge batteries for items such as cellular phones and laptop computers.

New system recharges batteries

Battery Works, which reconditions most batteries, is available now at the bookstore

By Abigail Handa
Freelance Reporter

You don't need to throw out your old favorite cordless phone just because the batteries don't last as long anymore.

The University Bookstore just introduced the only Battery Works reconditioning system in the Southern Willamette Valley designed to recondition most rechargeable batteries. These are the batteries most commonly found in cellular phones, laptop computers, video cameras, some cordless power tools and cordless phones.

"There is a chemical process in these batteries," said Kyle Kivett, an employee in the bookstore's computer department. "Over time, any chemical reaction loses its luster. [Battery Works] reconditions the process."

According to Kivett, these rechargeable batteries have a "memory" that stores only up to the average use of the battery and won't bother to recharge to its full capacity.

The Battery Works reconditioning process is very simple, said Michael Rebar, the bookstore's technology manager.

First, there is a screening process for the battery to determine if there are any bad cells. If the cells are good, the battery can be put through the reconditioning cycle. The screening process takes about 30 seconds, according to Rebar.

"If the battery needs reconditioning, we can generally turn batteries around the same day," he said. "But if there are any bad cells, most of the time a new battery needs to be purchased."

After the battery has been reconditioned, the customer needs to take it home and recharge it in the original equipment.

Battery Works was started in Sutherlin by Wendell Morris. "Wendell wanted to keep the chemical out of the ground and in use," Rebar explained.

The head Battery Works office is currently located in Beaverton and caters primarily to industrial

use.

"Battery Works doesn't generally target private individuals," Rebar said. "This franchise is the only place in Eugene and it targets these individuals."

Battery Works is another service of The Green Corner — the environmentally aware section found in the electronics department of the bookstore.

Only a month old, The Green Corner offers other environmentally conscious services besides Battery Works,

such as ink-jet cartridge refilling and computer paper and disk recycling.

Rebar encourages the University community to take advantage of The Green Corner and its services, including Battery Works.

"[Battery Works] is wonderful technology and has a 90 percent success rate," Rebar said.

The Battery Works screening process is free. For the reconditioning process, prices range from \$3 for a cordless phone battery to \$25 for a computer battery.

"If the battery needs reconditioning, we can generally turn batteries around the same day."

Michael Rebar
University Bookstore



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one of these things
just doesn't belong...*

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