



Adam Amato Emerald

John Erickson, a field tech from Tech Logic, works out bugs in the new Tech Logic book sorting machine in the new Downtown Eugene Public Library.

## Library

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G.Z. "Charlie" Brown, professor and director of the ESBL.

Library patrons are finding that bookshelves near windows are positioned to maximize the light in each aisle, which also saves energy. On cloudy days, the library's electric lights adjust automatically.

These improvements came from ESBL research and recommendations.

Of all the additions to the new library, including art, self-serve checkout stands, heated floors, and more books, staff and space, the most expensive one won't even be seen by the public.

The new fully-automated book return system is the first of its kind in Oregon, and it cost the library \$2 million, Library Director Connie Bennett said.

Previously, librarians checked the books in by hand. Now, three conveyor belts take books from return slots, reactivate their sensors, measure their size and determine their spine direction in order to place the book on the right reshelving cart.

### Eugene Public Library hours

Monday and Tuesday  
10 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Wednesday through Saturday  
10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Sunday 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.

SOURCE: Eugene Public Library

"It's very special," Nishimura said. "It will reduce stress demands on staff and save on staff time."

One drawback to the new library, at least for drivers, is a lack of free parking. Sixty-four metered parking spaces are located below the library, and there are several hundred metered spaces and paid garages within three blocks.

"People expect to find paid parking downtown," Nishimura said.

Library officials suggest taking a bus — Lane Transit District's downtown station is located right across the street. There are also more than 100 covered bike-parking spaces around the library.

Contact the reporter at [romangokhman@dailyemerald.com](mailto:romangokhman@dailyemerald.com).

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