

# County books new check-out equipment

BY CHELSEY COLE  
for the Index

The Adair County Public Library received a grant from the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services in January to purchase up-to-date computer equipment.

The grant was a part of the Library Services Technology Act Technology Grant Program. The Missouri State Library administered the awarded \$71,496 to the public library.

"[The Institute of Museum and Library Services] gives the money to states, in our case the Missouri State Library, and we can apply for those funds," said Glenda Hunt, director of the Adair County Library. "We were one of 62 grants submitted for the equipment, and we were one of the lucky ones to be funded."

The Missouri State Library grant staff recognized the public library's need for new computer equipment, she said.

"The grant people got to see our building, our operation, and the whole staff was very impressed by our community support," Hunt said.

Missouri awards matching grants on a 60-40 basis, but the public library applied for and received a 75-25

matched grant, Hunt said.

"What they awarded us for their 75-percent match from the state was \$71,469, and our library will provide the 25 percent, which is approximately \$24,000," Hunt said.

Each year since 1996, the public library reserved a portion of its budget for computer replacement instead of spending the money on new books, she said.

"But this has been a long time coming," she said.

The new computer equipment changes the library from a text-based system to a Web-based system, Hunt said.

A text-based system allows patrons to search the library catalogue by computer in the library, but the new Web-based system lets people search the book catalogue from their home computer through the library's Web page.

"The patrons will have easier access to the library catalogue and meet their requested needs of placing holds and view their personal accounts," Hunt said. "They can't do that now. We can as staff, but they can't."

The library currently gives patrons a printed list of books checked out and fines, Hunt said.

"We give you a list, but if you mis-



Librarian Suzanne Cupelli sorts books at the Adair County Public Library. A grant will provide the library with more than \$71,000 to update a new computer system for which the library has set aside money since 1996.

placed that list, how do you know what the library still says you have?" she said.

Hunt said the library needed a new system because the current automation system expired April 30 of this year.

"We've been running on borrowed time," she said.

The new system also will allow for some new and interesting features for patrons, Hunt said.

"We're going to have self check-in and a self check-out computers, just like Wal-Mart has," Hunt said. "We see that as something that will be very much needed in the next five to 10 years."

Hunt said she currently is gathering

bids from companies to provide the new technology.

"The public library will be closed Dec. 10 and 11 to train the library staff on the new system and re-open on Dec. 13 with the new system up and running," Hunt said.

Kirksville resident Jackie Floyd said she is excited about the updates the library is making.

"It will be nice to check your fines from home and see what books you have," Floyd said. "It'll make it a lot easier."

An up-to-date system could entice more people to visit the library, she said.

"It might make more people want

to check books out there and be more acceptable to younger generations who are savvy with technology," Floyd said.

Floyd said she wasn't certain how the new search catalogue would be beneficial but that she's excited to find out.

"I know from working at the library that the computer system is really, really slow and outdated," sophomore Megan Hill said.

Hill said she is looking forward to the new system and to having easier access to her fines.

"It'll be really helpful, especially for those who maybe can't get out as much as they used to," Hill said.

# Council approves campus-Square walkway project

BY JESSIE GASCH  
Managing Editor

Kirksville is forging a new link between the University and downtown.

At the City Council meeting Tuesday, councilmembers voted unanimously to contract with Mihalevich Concrete Construction Inc., which will replace the ordinary sidewalks along Franklin Street with brick-accented walks, new decorative street lighting, grassed terraces and wayfinding signage.

The project, which will cost more than \$300,000, is funded in part by a grant from the state Department of Transportation. The city also will chip in, using downtown tax increment financing revenues and the capital improvement sales tax reauthorized by voters in April, city manager Mari Macomber said.

In the late 1990s, Truman, A.T. Still University of Health Sciences and the city formed a partnership to improve

the downtown, and the sidewalk project will help fulfill that.

"Both campuses see the downtown as an amenity," Macomber said. "If it were appealing, that would help them to attract and maintain students and faculty."

Macomber said Mihalevich also will add a bike lane along one side of Franklin Street, from Normal Street to Jefferson Street, which will eliminate nine permanent parking spaces. The parking restriction concerned Sparks Cleaners, Macomber said, but now the city has planned for a loading zone to replace one of those full-time parking spots.

Public Works Director John Buckwalter said the construction process will take 120 days total, but those days will

not be consecutive. Workers cannot lay concrete in the winter unless the concrete can be protected from the weather, and sidewalks are difficult to protect, Buckwalter said.

"We will do very little work in January and February because it'll just be too cold," he said.

Before the project can begin, the city must get approval from MoDOT because of its contribution. Buckwalter said the city will hammer out the detailed construction schedule with Mihalevich after receiving MoDOT's approval, which he expects will be Dec. 1 at the earliest.

"What we would prefer to do would be to finish the [six decorative] down-

town corners and then begin on the work for the sidewalk," he said. "We don't want to tear up a lot of sidewalk, curb and others and then get caught by weather, especially when we're trying to fight snow."

Macomber said pedestrians and drivers should consider taking other routes while the sidewalk construction is going on.

"Any time you do construction, it's disruptive," she said. "... [If people] can change their habits for a little bit, it would be helpful."

When the process is complete, however, people walking from campus to the Square will have a more pedestrian-friendly route, Macomber said.

"Maybe somebody will walk and decide to take a break or just hang out along the sidewalk rather than just trying to get from one place to another," she said.

Senior Ryan Littleton, who lives on the Square, said he isn't sure a nicer

walkway between Normal and Washington streets will affect his walking habits.

"It would make it look a lot better, but it's not like I'm going to spend a lot of time sitting on decorative benches on Franklin Street just because," Littleton said. "... There's random benches other places in Kirksville, and I don't spend my time just randomly sitting on them."

Instead, the construction will disrupt his next semester, he said, adding that he also doesn't think the improvements will entice prospective students to attend Truman.

"I came [to visit Truman] when the path downtown was trashed, and it didn't make me think, 'Oh, I don't want to go to Truman because if I happen to randomly want to walk down to Pagliai's or something it's going to be a really trashy walk,'" he said. "That thought never crossed my mind, so I don't think it's going to really drastically ... make that huge of a difference."

"It would make it look a lot better, but it's not like I'm going to spend a lot of time sitting on Franklin Street just because."

Ryan Littleton  
Senior

# Study Abroad Courses Missouri-London Summer Program

June 10 to July 4, 2008

London Study Center-Imperial College Campus



## Informational Meeting

November 13, 7 pm  
McClain 210

**ECON 308 Economics of the European Union (3 credits)**

For more information, contact Dr. Sawani at [msawani@truman.edu](mailto:msawani@truman.edu) or the Center for International Education at [ciea@truman.edu](mailto:ciea@truman.edu)

**ENG 347 British Victorian Literature**

For more information, contact Dr. Seidel at [lseidel@truman.edu](mailto:lseidel@truman.edu) or the Center for International Education at [ciea@truman.edu](mailto:ciea@truman.edu)