



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Tuesday, July 22, 2008

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City of San Diego Public Library System Named Among Top 25 “Most Modern Libraries” in the World

Innovation and Creative Use of Technology Applauded in New Listing

SAN DIEGO – The San Diego Public Library system has been named one of the “25 most modern libraries in the world” by the “bestcollegesonline.com” (www.bestcollegesonline.com) website. The new listing applauds the City’s library system for finding "new and creative ways to use technology and design" And for being one of the first libraries to embrace wireless technology by offering free wifi access at all of its locations.

The library system’s new Director, Deborah Barrow, called the website’s listing well deserved recognition for the City. "I am proud to be associated with such an industry leader in library technology," said Barrow. "Many of our customers are looking for self service options and want to access the library 24/7. We already offer many of those options now and are poised to take advantage of many additional exciting technological advances in the near future to better serve our customers."

Technology already in use at San Diego Public library includes Express Check machines at many of the busiest branch libraries, a new Integrated Library System that simplifies library operations while providing the public with improved access to information, Ask Now 24/7 reference assistance, over 80 online databases, downloadable audio books, and a newly available online digital library that contains many of the rare local treasures such as a map of the Pueblo Lands of San Diego from 1858 and architectural drawings from the 1935 Exposition at Balboa Park. Patrons can also receive email notifications when they place reserves, reminders on when library materials are due and overdue notices. Students have access to additional specialized electronic resources including Live Homework Help and SchoolRooms, a new online discovery portal for K-12 based on the California state elementary, middle, and high school curricula.

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"Technology is changing the way library users interact with the library," said Library Director Barrow. "Imagine that it's Sunday night and the kids are asleep. You can go online and search for books on xeriscape gardening, and how to coach soccer as well as browse Bossa Nova recordings. You can request that the items be sent to your local branch library for pickup. You can then receive an email when they're ready, check them out, get a notice a few days before they're due and renew them online. Technology makes it easy, free of cost and sustainable for the environment all at the same time. This is just the beginning of the many innovations San Diego Public Library will have available for our community in the future!"

Other noted libraries on the "25 Most Modern Libraries in the World" list include: the University of California, San Diego Geisel Library (for its modern design); the Library of Congress; the British Library; the Seattle Public Library; the New York Public Library; the National Diet Library (Japan); the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh; the Denver Public Library; and the Bibliotheque Nationale de France.

Learn more about San Diego Public Library Library's Central Library and 35 branches, find links to numerous additional resources, and search for materials in the Library's online catalog at www.sandiegolibrary.org.

The City of San Diego Public Library – Your Link to the Past and Gateway to the Future

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