



DOWNTOWN • 610 Quincy St. Rapid City, SD 57701 • (605) 394-6139 or (605) 394-4171
NORTH • 10 Van Buren St. Rapid City, SD 57701 • (605) 716-4098

CONTACT:

John Pappas – Outreach Coordinator
Rapid City Public Library
605-394-6139 x2229
jpappas@rcplib.org

For Immediate Release

Library Staff is available for comment on this issue. Please contact for interview.

Rapid City Public Library listed as one of the “Top 100 Library Twitterers”

Rapid City, SD – April 27th, 2009 – The Rapid City Public Library has recently been listed as one of the top 100 library “twitterers” according to www.bestcollegesonline.com. Twitterers are users of the micro-blogging social networking site Twitter. Twitter, along with other social networking sites (such as MySpace and Facebook) have become part of the public’s everyday life during the last decade. Currently, anyone from preteens in middle school to the older adults has a presence on one or some of these sites.

The Rapid City Library has been on the forefront of the Library 2.0 movement. This movement represents a change from the static and simple traditional presentation of library services to information that is online and participatory. This movement plays a large part in how public libraries interact with and provide services for their patrons. It is now possible to renew books online, instant message questions to librarians, chat with live tutors from library computers or learn languages online.

“Online access and social networking are playing a much larger role in library services than they did in the past” commented Outreach Services Coordinator, John Pappas “and we hope that continuing to grow in these realms will lead to greater interaction with patrons as well as other libraries in the area”.

The Rapid City Public Library has taken several large steps in provided a “2.0” experience to its patrons and to meet the needs of patrons that never even walk through the doors of the library. Databases that supply an array of information can be accessed directly from home computers. Questions concerning library services can be either emailed or instant messaged to librarians. Wikis on both the 1972 Rapid City Flood and the DUSEL are open to the public to access as well as to add information and personal experience.

Even services that are considered to be “traditional” library services can now be accessed from your computer. If the weather or other unforeseen events cause you to miss a Library Story-Time you may be able to access it on-line. Story-times are in the process of being recorded and posted onto the RCPL’s YouTube site at www.youtube.com/user/rapidcitylibrary as well as tutorials for informational databases and tours. Websites such as delicious allow library staff to identify and tag links to useful online content and group it together for patrons to access easily. Library Thing allows information on new book arrivals to be presented to patrons and allow for them to comment on and recommend similar books as well.

Keep an eye on the Rapid City Library as they explore new ways of making information easier to access for citizens of Rapid City and Pennington County.

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The Rapid City Public Library has served the Rapid City area since 1879, and now has two locations, the downtown library at 610 Quincy Street and the north library within General Beadle Elementary School at 10 Van Buren St. Both offer print and electronic resources for adults, young adults and children as well as computers and Internet access and a variety of programs and events. In March 2008, USA Today named the Rapid City Public Library’s downtown library as one of the nation’s 10 greatest places to “Find a Nook and Read a Book.”

*Find video footage of RCPL events at: <http://www.youtube.com/user/rapidcitylibrary>
Find photos of RCPL events at: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/rcpl/>*