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Greta Chapman, Library Director, is available for comment or interview. Contact her on her direct line at 394-6713.

New Search Engine Soon to Make Noise at the Rapid City Public Library

Rapid City, S.D. – July 1, 2010 – The Rapid City Public Library announces the July 14 introduction of new, state-of-the-art search technology that will make finding what the library has to offer easier and more engaging than ever before. The new system will reveal content like media and e-books, suggest recently added or popular items, ability to broaden or refine search results, and includes relevant websites and library databases. Library patrons can access all this from a single, “Google-like” search box. This new way to search is available on computers at the library and anywhere you have internet access at www.rapidcitylibrary.org.

The new system is similar in look and feel to current popular websites and will allow the Rapid City Public Library to be a popular destination site for its community’s information needs. Whether searching on a subject or a specific book or CD, users will be more likely to be able to find what they are looking for more easily. The new system will return items that are clearly listed by relevance and can be effortlessly expanded or refined according to publication date, branch or library, language, or subject as presented in a Tag Cloud. The Tag Cloud, which is found on websites like Flickr, helps users by presenting a grouping of words related to their searches that they can click on to launch new queries.

According to Greta Chapman, Library Director, “This new system provides highly sophisticated search results presented in a very simple way. We think everyone will find it extremely useful,

whether you are a teenager looking for books for a term paper, or a community member looking for the latest fiction or important health information, or a patron who wants to explore everything we make available on a topic.”

Chapman continues, “Now, for the first time, our users can easily move beyond the traditional online library catalog to a richer online discovery experience. You can get results that are expert without having to be an advanced user of an online library catalog.”

On Wednesday, July 14, the downtown Rapid City Public Library will be holding a premiere party from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. During this time all are invited to learn about the new online system, try it and ask questions.

Find out about library resources, services and events by visiting our website at www.rapidcitylibrary.org.

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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/>