

Battalion Classifieds

Local



The security system at the Sterling C. Evans Library uses the magnetic detectors these students are walking through. Each book has a magnetic strip inside that is desensitized when

the book is properly checked out. If a book is checked out properly, the detector picks up the magnetic strip, sets off an alarm, and locks the gates.

New library security system helps to control book loss

By SHERRY A. EVANS
Battalion Reporter

The new security system installed in the Sterling C. Evans Library during remodeling last year is helping to prevent loss of library material.

"It (the system) is something that is pretty common throughout most large academic libraries and also large public libraries," head of circulation Emma Perry said.

The security system is a computer with a magnetic detector at the library exit. Each book has a magnetic strip that is desensitized when the book is properly checked out.

If a book is not checked out properly, a buzzer goes off as the person carries the book through the exit gate alerting library personnel.

Although no statistics are available, Perry said the security system is fairly successful in preventing the loss of material.

Perry said she does not think the library loses many books due to theft. Many people lose material, she said, but a large majority of them pay for it afterward.

During the 1979-80 school year over 1 million people used the library. The peak times are usually afternoons

and Sundays, and the numbers grow as finals approach, she said.

Out of the 1,289,743 volumes in the library, 396,000 were checked out last year. This was a 13 percent increase over the year before and Perry said she expects it to be even higher this year.

Perry said the system can also count the number of books checked out over any given period. This is used to schedule employees' and library hours.

Several reasons contribute to the increased use of the library, she said, among them the energy situation and the economy.

"I don't think people are going away as frequently on weekends and a lot of them are using the library more often," she said.

Another reason Perry cited was that students have been doing increased research for professors.

"I think we're moving in the right direction in terms of supporting the curriculum and the courses that are being taught here," Perry said. "A lot of students are becoming more familiar with the library and the kind of services that we can provide and all of this makes for good place to study."

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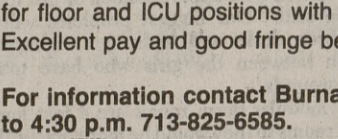
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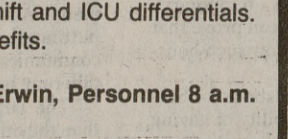
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