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# Librarians trained to aid the disabled

All branches of the Santa Cruz Public Library System will be closed Aug. 22 while employees attend a training session on the needs of the handicapped.

The session was prompted by concerns that a number of county residents are not using the library simply because of the physical difficulties involved, Library Director Anne M. Turner said.

A wheelchair-accessible library doesn't necessarily grant a handicapped person access to the library's resources, she said. It's also important for employees to know how to place resources within their reach.

For example, Turner said, "If all the computer terminals are at standing height and you haven't even noticed it, you have a problem."

Training management staff alone is not enough, she added. "It's all very well to train branch managers, but it's the page reshelving books in the aisle that trips over the wheelchair."

Another purpose of the training session is to come up with some changes that can be made right away to improve accessibility, Turner said.

One change already in the works is to place Braille labels on the tape-recorded books. After all, she said, taped books aren't much good to the blind person if he can't read the labels.

Also planned is a collection of catalogs geared toward the needs of the handicapped. Included would be information on where implements useful to handicapped people can be obtained, Turner said.