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NEVADA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

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By Linda Deacy

- STATE OF NEVADA - CARSON CITY, NV

The Nevada eGovernment Alliance created MyNevada.gov as a resource for citizens, businesses and visitors. MyNevada.gov currently serves as a portal to government online resources throughout the state. The alliance is comprised of a growing number of government agencies that are cooperatively working to develop an online tool offering seamless access to government information and services.

Current Nevada eGovernment Alliance partners include: State of Nevada, City of Henderson, City of Las Vegas, City of North Las Vegas, Clark County, Las Vegas Valley Water District, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, Henderson District Public Libraries, and Nevada State Library and Archives.

- LAS VEGAS-CLARK COUNTY LIBRARY DISTRICT - LAS VEGAS, NV

After three years, agents usually give up and deem fines uncollectible, according to Unique Management Services, the collection agency that handles late fees and fines for the Las Vegas-Clark County Library District. The library board was expected to vote whether to deem \$704,763 in fines and fees from 1999 as unrecoverable. The majority of the fines are from patrons who owe less than \$10, library officials said. But they found 6,519 people owed more than \$25 from that year.

Forgiving their debts would allow libraries to clean up databases. Books that never made it back to their shelves no longer will be listed as checked out.

Latent book borrowers who owe small amounts, such as \$10 or less, most probably will be able to receive a library card again, said district Deputy Director Nancy Ledeboer. The idea of offering amnesty to irresponsible patrons irked a few book borrowers Tuesday at the Clark County Library at 1401 E. Flamingo Road.

Because of the city's transient population, library officials believe the majority of the culprits skipped town. But Las Vegas borrowers are no more irresponsible than those in other cities, according to Unique Management Services. The Jeffersonville, Ind., company specializes in library collections nationwide and found 1 percent to 2 percent of card holders return items late, regardless of the district's size. \

The company recovered \$1.9 million worth of items for the district over the past four years, Ledeboer said. After 122 days, the company passes on vigilante borrowers to credit agencies, which has been a helpful reminder for forgetful patrons.

- UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA - LIED LIBRARY - LAS VEGAS, NV

State officials agreed to pay about \$1.7 million to the companies that built UNLV's Lied Library to settle a three-year construction dispute. The actual settlement approved by the Board of Examiners totaled nearly \$2.7 million, but \$600,000 will be returned to the state to make some repairs at the library, which opened in January 2001. The state also will keep \$365,000 in funds that were retained when disputes about the project first arose.

Gov. Kenny Guinn, a member of the board, said the settlement was a business decision based on the risks and expense of going to trial. A private firm hired to help negotiate a settlement on the project estimated that it could cost as much as \$1 million just to prepare for a trial and the contractors in the dispute were seeking more than \$10 million in additional payments for work on the library.

The library opened one year late.