



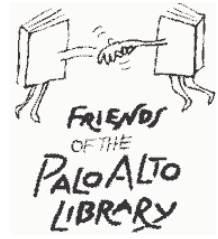
LINK+



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Millions of Books at Your Neighborhood Library

Jeff Levinsky, President
Friends of the Palo Alto Library
jeff@friendspaloaltolib.org
(650) 328-1954
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A top request of Palo Alto residents is to improve our library collection. This can be accomplished affordably by joining the LINK+ consortium of California and Nevada libraries. The many benefits include:

- LINK+ gives you access to 18 million volumes. By comparison, the Palo Alto City Library has under a quarter million volumes and Stanford University has just three million volumes, as the graph on the left illustrates.
- With LINK+, the odds of finding useful books on the topic you're interested in go up significantly. For every book that Palo Alto has, LINK+ offers 72 more.
- LINK+ can be free to users, as it is at the Mountain View Public Library.
- LINK+ uses automation to keep its costs very low. Mountain View pays \$24,000 annually and uses a half-time aide or page. Palo Alto's costs will be somewhat higher, but not significantly.
- LINK+ is very easy to use: you search for and request books over the Internet and are notified by e-mail when they are ready to pick up.
- Most volumes come from nearby libraries, generally arriving within a couple of days.
- The LINK+ consortium includes many university libraries, such as San Francisco State, San Jose State, and Cal State Hayward. Hence, you can get university-level books that simply aren't available at public libraries.
- LINK+ is ideal for high school students writing reports on topics that our public library simply cannot afford to cover. LINK+ provides students doing college-level work with university research collections.
- To serve our high school students better, we should investigate delivering LINK+ books directly to Gunn and Paly.
- LINK+ can be integrated into our online catalog system, so you can easily order books from LINK+ if they're not in our regular library collection or are checked out already. As online catalogs improve (think Amazon.com) over the years, so will LINK+.
- LINK+ requires absolutely no physical expansion of our libraries.
- Our collection expands instantly when we join LINK+. It does not require we wait until we have tens of millions of dollars in new building funds.

benefits continue on next page

Stanford



Palo Alto



- Even if we had physical space to hold a larger collection, we would still have to pay for the books, processing, and shelving. At \$40 per book, merely doubling our collection would cost at least \$10 million – twice our entire library’s annual budget. LINK+ expands our collection 72-fold, or by the equivalent of \$720 million.
- LINK+ leverages our existing neighborhood branches, because LINK+ books can be delivered to the facility you specify. Even our smallest branch will effectively have 18 million books inside it.
- LINK+ is popular where available. Mountain View’s patrons borrowed 25 times as many books via LINK+ in its first year as Palo Alto patrons did through our far more costly and less-convenient interlibrary loan system.

You can search LINK+’s catalog for free right now at www.friendspaloaltolib.org/linkplus.htm. If you have a Mountain View Library card, you can request books immediately at no cost.

Challenges to implementing LINK+ for Palo Alto:

- The LINK+ software has not yet been customized to work with our particular library automation software (Horizon, from Dynix), which was just recently acquired. We could either pay for the customization or wait until some other library that uses Horizon does. These problems are likely to be solved in 2005. An earlier version of Dynix’s software has already been successfully integrated with LINK+.
- Funding is needed for LINK+ setup and ongoing operations. The Friends of the Palo Alto Library might be able to help raise these funds.
- LINK+ delivers books to just one branch per city, so Palo Alto might work out integrated inter-branch schedules to get LINK+ books to all branches and possibly the high schools as quickly as possible.

Libraries in the LINK+ Consortium

Alameda County Public Library	Pleasanton Public Library
Alliant International University	Point Loma University
Azusa Pacific University	Santa Clara University
Claremont College	Santa Clara Public Library
Cal Poly (Pomona)	San Diego State
Cal Poly (San Luis Obispo)	San Francisco State
California State University – Fullerton	San Jose Public Library and San Jose State
California State University – Hayward	(Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library)
California State University – Long Beach	Saint Mary’s University
Hayward Public Library	Sonoma State
Livermore Public Library	University of Nevada, Reno
Loma Linda University	University of San Francisco
Loyola Marymount	University of La Verne
La Sierra University	Whittier College
Mountain View Public Library	West Valley Mission Community College
Occidental College	