

Grant Provides New Computers at Falls City Library

(KTNC) - The Falls City Library is getting new computers. Library Director Hope Schawang says the Library will receive two-dozen new computers thanks to a grant that comes from multiple sources. (play audio :33)

One of the new computers will be handicap-accessible, with a larger monitor and mouse, and computers will be installed in the Library Study Rooms in addition to the Computer Lab. The grant also includes money for 24 new computer chairs.

The Gates Foundation provided a \$1.2-million match to a \$2.4-million grant the Nebraska Library Commission received from the U.S. Department of Commerce to fund a three-year project to expand broadband capacity and upgrade computer resources at 147 libraries in the state.

The Falls City Library will receive more than \$33,000 worth of new equipment. It's a somewhat unexpected gift, as Schawang says they applied for the grant all the way back in 2009 – and were turned down. (play audio :30)

Schawang says the Library's computers are well used. (play audio :22)

The Falls City Library has recently teamed with Southeast Community College to offer free computer classes. That's something Schawang hopes can continue. (play audio :34)

Schawang says the library computers fill a need as more government agencies offer more services online. For example, she says this is the first year that the Library has received no income tax forms.