

# INDYSTAR.COM

April 25, 2009

## Machine to offer library materials

Swipe your card, get a book; ATM-like device will be placed in Plainfield recreation center lobby by July on a test basis

By Bruce C. Smith  
[bruce.smith@indystar.com](mailto:bruce.smith@indystar.com)

A Westside company is developing a machine for dispensing books that could become the automated teller machine of public libraries.

Evanced Solutions, headquartered on Rockville Road and founded by two Hendricks County residents, plans to install a prototype machine this summer in the lobby of the Plainfield Recreation and Aquatic Center.

Todd Cutler, Plainfield, one of the founders of Evanced Solutions, said the machines, dubbed GoLibrary, have the potential to do for libraries what ATMs have done for banks.

Evanced, which also sells software for use in libraries, will sell the vending machines under the Evanced GoLibrary name.

The devices store books and other materials, process the loan of an item to a library cardholder and then accept the return of the item and store it for another loan. Similar machines, like the Red Box found in restaurants and retail stores, rent DVDs and CDs.

Evanced Solutions' library machine - priced around \$75,000 - is geared toward books and similar materials.

"This can give libraries a way to extend their operations and to serve their patrons 24 hours every day. It can expand their reach to new locations without the expense of building a new branch library," he added.

The Town Council has agreed for one of the book-dispensing machines to be placed in the lobby of the Recreation Center, where it will be operated by Plainfield-Guilford Township Public Library.

Cutler said the first GoLibrary version of the machines is being manufactured in Italy for Evanced Solutions.

A few machines are operating in Europe, six are running in New York and California, but none is in Indiana, according to Rob Cullin, Brownsburg, the other co-owner of Evanced. He is working on an agreement for future GoLibrary machines to be made here.

Much like banks' cash machines, GoLibrary devices could be installed to protrude through the wall of a building or they may be freestanding metal boxes like the prototype to be in the Plainfield recreation center. Installations require electricity and access to the Internet so the operation can be monitored from the sponsoring library.

The prototype is to be installed by July in the recreation center on a test basis, he said.

Edra Waterman, director of Plainfield-Guilford library, said she might recommend the Library Board buy the machine if the test period of several months shows the public uses it and that it's mechanically reliable.

Cutler told the Town Council the machines hold about 500 items to dispense, including books, DVDs, videotapes, audio books on tape, and other materials typically loaned by libraries.

Users can check out books from the machine by swiping their library card, much like swiping a credit card through a gasoline station pump.

The machine would be connected to the Plainfield library via the Internet, so librarians could monitor the device and track any trends.

Waterman said cardholders from Avon and other libraries who are members of the Evergreen library network also could use their library cards to borrow materials from the GoLibrary machine.

Materials borrowed from the machine are to be returned to it, where they can be restored to the correct bin and ready to be loaned again.

"It will take us a little time, but we will be able to determine what materials are most popular, and we can make other adjustments," she said.

---