

Library institutes new catalog system to increase number of reliable research methods, improve over previous system

By **LEA LEATH**
Staff Writer

As of May 8, the Thigpen Library has a new catalog system called Millennium. Louise Kelly, director of library services, says, "We spent the whole summer working out the bugs. The old system was out of date technology-wise." Kelly also explained that Millennium was chosen out of three different systems that were displayed for many librarians throughout Tennessee. Kelly says that people from different campuses came together to choose a new system. Along with Vol State, Tennessee State also used

the Millennium system to update their catalog. The idea for a new catalog system was not a new idea at all, Kelley explained. She said it had been put into thought for two to three years. "This one is Windows-based, so it comes in over the internet, and it's what everybody is used to," said Phillip Haley, library assistant. Brittany Trice, an office management technology major who said she spends much of her time in the library, states, "(the Millennium system) is pretty easy. I searched by author and title and they had a variety of options for me to look up."

With the Millennium search, you can either search by professor or class to find the exact books assigned for any particular class. If you do not know the name of the professor or class, Millennium gives the option of signing onto Pride Online to look up your class schedule if needed. Although Millennium has many new features, there are still some similarities. "Like the old system, you can log onto it from home," Kelly said. Some new features that the Millennium has is that a student can look at their own account information, check out a book, or see when a book is due back through

this system from home. Kelly states, "With our previous catalog you couldn't limit your search to just what Vol State has." With the new system, she said "it only brings up what we have." When doing a search, the Millennium system also brings up electronic books where the other did not. Kelly said she wanted to stress that students should "ask for help, since she said it is understandable that this new catalog system is going to take some time to get used to. She said there is always someone there that would not mind explaining how to use Millennium to anyone.

Public relations department hosts TCPRA conference, scoops up awards

By **BRIAN ESTES**
Editor

The public relations department was recently rewarded for their work on a pair of promotional publications for Vol State at the Tennessee College Public Relations Association conference, which was hosted on the Vol State campus on May 18.

The public relations department received first place honors for the "College Viewbook" and took home third place for the "2006 Annual Report."

Belmont and UT-Martin, which placed first and second respectively, edged out Vol State in the latter category.

The publications, which



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feature background information concerning the school, were written by Media Relations Coordinator Eric Melcher and were designed by Webmaster Kenyatta Lovett.

Melcher explained that the two publications are available for public access.

"The veiwbook you can get from admissions and the annual report is on our website under publications and PR," Melcher said.

The judging panel was assembled by Jennifer Wetzel, assistant director of university marketing and communication at Belmont

University.

"We looked for people who had a high level of expertise in marketing or advertising," Wetzel said.

"I thought all the entries were great. There were numerous entries from schools all across the state and there was an impressive caliber of entries from everyone," Wetzel said.

Angie Jowers, director of public relations, said she was thrilled to have taken home the awards.

"This is the first time in my career when I've had the privilege of working with a team of individuals who are so committed to excellence that we've been able to stand out in the crowd," Jowers said. "This illustrates the quality and impact of the

work done in our PR office that matches and exceeds other two and four year schools in the state."

"It's good recognition for us as a smaller school that we can compete with larger schools when it comes to what we do here in public relations," said Melcher.

"We were competing against big schools like Vanderbilt and the University of Tennessee."

More than 50 public relations officials from universities all over Tennessee were present at the conference.

Campus tours were given so that those in attendance could view the damage to the campus. A brief discussion on disaster preparedness ensued soon afterwards.