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Technology in libraries to be debated at forum

^{258F} Library specialists will debate the role of new technologies in the future of libraries 7 p.m. Wednesday at the Clark County Community College library.

The public has been invited to participate in the third Key Issues Forum, called "Technology: Tool or Tyrant," where input will help mold the agenda for the Governor's Conference on the Future of Libraries May 9-11.

The state conference is a prelude to a similar White House conference in July 1991.

"We want to try to be more community-serving than we have been," said retired UNLV economics professor Dr. Tom White, who will moderate the forum.

He said officials are seeking public input.

Sitting on the six-member panel are librarian Tom Ballard, who is "famous for saying all the technology is eating your lunch," White said, and Dr. Ching-chih Chen, who believes emerging technology is important to the

future of libraries.

Ballard is director of the Jackson-Hinds Library System, while Chen is associate dean of Simmons College Graduate School of Library and Information Science in Boston.

Other panelists are Bill Robinson, director of computing services at UNLV; Joan Kerschner, Nevada state librarian; Don Bosseau, San Diego State University librarian; and Harold Way of University Microfilms International.