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Technology is subject of library's Key Issue Forum

Area libraries will present a panel discussion, "Technology: Tool or Tyrant?" as the third in a series of Key Issue Forums which are designed to elicit public opinion on pressing contemporary issues.

The technology forum is scheduled for Wednesday, Feb. 7, at 7 p.m., in the library on the second level of Clark County Community College, 3200 E. Cheyenne. For information, call 643-6060, ext. 264.

The technology panelists include Dr. Ching-chih Chen, a noted information scientist, associate dean of the Simmons College Graduate School of Library and Information Science in Boston and the author of seven books and numerous articles.

She will present "Project Emperor I," a multimedia event de-

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picting the life and times of the first emperor of China that includes the 1973 excavation of the 7,000 life-size terra cotta warriors and horses which were created to guard his tomb.

Other panelists include Tom Ballard, director of the Jackson-Hinds Library System in Mississippi, on libraries as information providers; Bill Robinson, UNLV Computer Services, on the Information Systems of the Future; Harold Way, representative of University Microfilms International on the future of CD-ROM technology; Don Bosseau, San Diego State University Librarian, on the Ramification of New Technologies on Libraries; and Joan Kerschner, Nevada State Librarian, who will discuss the Integration of Statewide Automation.

The Key Issue Forums are part of a public awareness program for the May 9-11 Governor's Conference on the Future of Libraries.

"We invite interested community members to apply to be a delegate at the conference. Application forms can be picked up at the library speakout on Jan. 31 or the Feb. 7 Key Issue Forum, or ask for them at any library.

In the first Key Issue Forum on the homeless and the second on growth, community members had a chance to directly engage some of the decision-makers in the Southern Nevada area, including county and city officials.

"The homeless are visible reminders of a community responsibility which we have to face. Rapid growth and how it affects the quality of our lives is one of

the most important issues in this area because of our boomtown expansion. We're looking at the quality of our city and county services, traffic congestion, water rationing," said Ann Langevin, state chairman of the Governor's Conference. "These things also impact our approach to planning library services through the year 2000.

"The public's input at these forums, regional meetings and speakouts will have a definite impact on the direction that libraries will take in the next 10 years," said Langevin, who is also administrator of the Clark County Library.

"Opinions expressed by people now will be used to influence library legislation at the local, state and national levels."