

## Libraries – For Readers Only?

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I am glad that you put a question mark at the end of your theme title. If there had not been a question mark, the theme title would have been a declarative statement. In today's modern library (including the library facility in Julian, California that I frequent) readers are a large part of the user base, they are by no means the only users.

Even though it is summer time and schools are currently closed, there are many young people still using the library and the many things it has to offer. Of course, many of the younger users are busy playing computer games. Still others are working on projects of one sort or another using the internet for research and/or other information.

Adult users also find ways to use the library that do not include the traditional use of books, etc. and reading. As I sit here in the Julian library writing this essay I know there is an adult exercise class taking place in the library Community Room. Next week, as a sign reminds me, the library will host the Julian Arts Guild's presentation on "How to Create a Website for Free". The non-reader use of the library is growing. In addition to the Library Community Room, there are some smaller rooms that can be used to great benefit for group study. I would also think these rooms can and will be used by other community groups for committee meetings and related purposes.

There have been countless other programs held in the library whose main theme was to teach or inform about a subject of interest to those in attendance. This may have a side benefit of making them *readers* again!

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In the Julian area there are not many opportunities to view the latest movie films without a trip “off the hill”. The library helps fill that void by making available for check out video tapes and DVD’s of current and classic films. Many books are also available on CD. If you are not in the mood to read, you can listen to the CD book in the comfort of your home or as a way to pass the time on a long trip.

As I was leaving the library today, I notice that there has been provision made for “man’s best friend”. Just inside the front door was a repository for dog food that I am sure will be used to help feed our furry friends. This is just another example of how the library is being used in a “not for readers only way”

As you can see by the examples I have outlined in this essay books are but one of the many ways one can use the local library. If you are not a regular patron of your local library, I challenge you to become one. You will quickly learn that libraries *are not* just for *readers* only.

Will I see you in the library soon?