



OJAI VALLEY NEWS

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Ojai Library reports nearly 15 percent rise

Readers turn to cost-free borrowing as library circulates 9,434 items in December

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In times of economic hardship, public libraries traditionally experience a surge in circulation. This is as true in Ojai as it is in other communities throughout the country. Kit Willis, City Librarian of the Ojai Public Library, reports that “in December 2008, the Ojai Library circulated 9,434 items compared with 8,210 in December 2007 – a 14.9% increase.”

As people cut back on their expenditures, the library serves as a cost-free source for borrowing – instead of buying – books, CDs, audiotapes, DVDs and other entertainment media. Some patrons have let their newspaper and magazine subscriptions lapse, and come to the library to access

the latest news and articles. Others who used to buy bestsellers or books for their children now borrow them from the library as a cost-cutting measure.

In addition, the library sees between 1400 and 1600 Internet users per month. “Our eight Internet computers,” says Willis, “are pretty much in constant use.” Online resources, along with books, periodicals, databases and the services of trained librarians, provide critical information for job searches, electronic applications, and retraining opportunities.

Whether patrons are looking for classified ads in local newspapers... or information about a specific company... or journals that can help them update their industry knowledge... or reference books that provide contact data... the library is the first step on the road to success.

Unfortunately, tight county and state budgets threaten our libraries at the exact time they are needed most. The Ojai Valley

Library Friends & Foundation (OVLFF) seeks to extend and enhance high-quality library services throughout the community, beyond the limited level now supported by public funding. Visit the Friends’ website to learn about the programs the OVLFF supports, and to become a Friend: http://www.ovlff.com/Be_a_Friend.html. You can now become a member, or increase the level of your contribution, by using your credit card online or mailing your check to OVLFF, P.O. Box 1005, Ojai, CA 93024.

As President Barack Obama reminded us in his inaugural speech, “What is required of us now is a new era of responsibility.”

One way that you, as a citizen, can shoulder some of that responsibility is by supporting your public library – that arsenal of liberty where Americans of all ages, from all backgrounds, can tap into empowerment. Find out how you can offer support by visiting www.ovlff.com.