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402 (Second interview – Colleen Winters)

403

404 Interviewer: Linda Stiles-Taylor (LT)

405 Interviewee: Colleen Winters (CW)

406

407 LT: It's May 30th, the year 2000. We're back at Forest Grove City Library with Colleen Winters
408 and today we talk about the 90's. The interviewer is Linda Stiles-Taylor.

409

410 And one of the issues of the 90's certainly state-wide, as well as nationally, has been a large
411 concern with intellectual freedom because of the challenges that there have been. You've always
412 had an active role in intellectual freedom circles at the state level, as well as locally. Can you

413 share a little about Forest Grove's experience with issues around censorship and challenges? And
414 what you think about that.

415
416 CW: Yes. I have been actively involved in the Oregon Library Association's intellectual freedom
417 committee for a number of years. We have a very active committee and they do good work state-
418 wide. They have kind of a national reputation for being sort of on the cutting edge of thinking
419 about things and being proactive. So that has helped me a lot in making decisions and pondering
420 the problem of intellectual freedom. Forest Grove has had, knock on wood, a very good
421 experience around this issue and when I talk about it generally I like to think it's because we
422 have been proactive around the development of the collection. We think, I think pretty well,
423 about how this collection is going to be developed and how it has evolved. It's diverse, it's
424 representative, it's controversial. You've heard the expression there should be something, a good
425 public library has something in it to offend everyone and I'm pretty sure that we, indeed, have
426 quite a lot of things that offend people. But on the other side of that coin is that we are also
427 prepared to defend those things and the reason that they're here. We have a responsibility to tax-
428 payers to spend their money wisely so we don't just buy things just to be controversial, if they're
429 not used, if they're not appropriate, whatever. But we do indeed have things that are
430 controversial. We also, I think, do a good job of listening when people complain or make
431 suggestions or give us input on the collection, we've listened and responded. We've been
432 fortunate over the years to have very few complaints. And since I've been the director we've
433 never had a formal complaint, which is quite a wonderful thing. We have a very good process in
434 place but we've never had to utilize it, which is a blessing. We've had, certainly, people who've
435 come and said "I don't think you should have this, this isn't a good use of my tax dollars." And
436 then we have, as I've said, a process in place and I have enacted the first couple of pieces of that
437 which involve listening and explaining and justifying. Oregon is very lucky to have at the State
438 Library the Intellectual Freedom Clearinghouse so when we've had the need for assistance
439 around a particular item, a title, or a book or something then we can call on the clearinghouse for
440 assistance and they will provide you with reviews, or other libraries who have experienced
441 challenges around the item. And I think we've only called them once, in an official capacity.

442
443 LT: It certainly is, you know I certainly would concur that it is a proactive approach that's done
444 it because Forest Grove is a more conservative community than some of the communities in
445 Washington County that have had huge problems with censorship in the 90's and major battles.
446 And our collection, a lot of the interlibrary loans requests we get really reflect the fact that it's
447 one of the libraries that does have the most diverse books - religion, philosophy, history. In a
448 variety of ways it's a very, very wide ranging collection and so a lot of interlibrary loan occurs as
449 a result of that.

450
451 CW: That's right. We're a net lender. In the state and in Washington County our collection is
452 loaned more, we loan more items than we borrow. And one of the reasons that we give, to people
453 who ask, is because of the collection, it's a very interesting collection, very diverse.

454
455 In the same arena I think we should mention that we have display policy that's been enacted in
456 recent years because of a complaint. This was one of the more public issues that occurred in the
457 Forest Grove Library, a complaint regarding a display that we had. And the patron was unhappy
458 that we had a display from a local school, a local private Christian school. He was offended by it.

459 It had religious references. And he suggested that he was going to file a lawsuit and that we
460 should be, that he would be in touch with the ACLU. We thought the ACLU, and a result of that,
461 did and have done quite a lot of work around that display policy and making sure other libraries
462 know about the ramifications of having a display policy that talks about being a public forum.
463 We decided after much work with the ACLU and with the library commission that we were
464 going to be a public forum. And once you've decided to do that you either are or else you're not,
465 there isn't any grey areas around that. We decided that's what we wanted to do. That we were
466 going to make our room, our meeting room, our display cases and our bulletin boards available
467 to anyone that wanted to use them.

468
469 LT: And everyone has wanted to use them.

470
471 CW: Everyone has wanted to use them.

472
473 LT: From the John Birch Society to the Girl Scouts.

474
475 CW: That's right, that's right. For the most part it has been collections of rocks or pretty non-
476 controversial stuff. But we did have the John Birch Society in there for several weeks last year
477 during coincidentally, not by design, but coincidentally during banned book week which was a
478 nice touch.

479
480 LT: For some intriguing questions from patrons about intellectual freedom and libraries.

481
482 CW: It did. And it was a good thing. It was a very good thing that happened there. But anyway,
483 that's how it came to be. That we have a well written display policy and, kind of, we are on the
484 cutting edge. But also the fallout from that has been around some decisions we've made as well.
485 For example we don't have a Christmas tree anymore. We don't have, we don't celebrate
486 holidays as a result of that. So it did have some fallout and not everybody, I think, in the
487 community was comfortable with that. But once they heard the explanation for it they
488 understood that it was an attempt to make everyone that walks in the doors feel welcome. Which
489 is what the whole ACLU thing was about was that everyone who sets foot in this building should
490 feel welcome. And if you have Christmas tree up, if you have displays at Easter time, if you do
491 Christmas stories, and you're not a believer in those things than you don't feel very welcomed in
492 a public building. So that's been a very controversial, not very controversial. It's been a
493 controversial decision but one that we feel pretty strongly about as a staff, and the Library
494 Commission as well.

495
496 LT: And another thing that's been going on in the 90's is the sister city arrangement with
497 Nyuzen Japan. (CW: Yes, right) And you've been active with that from the get go.

498
499 CW: Yes, I got in on the ground floor.

500
501 (Photo of CW by library in Japan)

502
503 LT: And that would be what year?

504

505 CW: 1990 was the first official delegation that went to our sister city in Nyuzen, Toyama, Japan
506 which is located on the Sea of Japan. And we went again in '92 and I believe that the city's been
507 able to send a delegation every other year since then, in even numbered years.
508

509 LT: And here's a picture of you in front of the Nyuzen library.
510

511 CW: Right. This is the Nyuzen Public Library. Actually I think it's called the Nyuzen Town
512 Library. It's located in the city hall. And, goodness, we were treated like royalty and, in every
513 area of our visit, but the library was no exception. Not only did they decorate for my arrival but
514 they had many gifts to give.
515

516 (photo of CW exchanging gifts in Japan)

517 LT: An example of a gift exchange.
518

519 CW: Right. The exchanging of gifts in Japan is a very common custom. You get many, many,
520 many upon your arrival and you receive many throughout the course of the trip. And of course
521 we took gifts to give. In this picture I'm giving a gift from the Friends of the Forest Grove
522 Library to the Nyuzen Town Library.
523

524 (Photo of employees at Japan library)

525 CW: These are some of the employees and volunteers at the Nyuzen Town Library. We got to
526 meet them and see their computer system. Which actually we had ours before they had theirs,
527 which was amazing to me.
528

529 (Photo of a display with photos and Forest Grove T-shirts)

530 LT: And this display...
531

532 CW: This is in the library in Nyuzen. And these are framed pictures of their visit to Forest Grove
533 and when they came to the story time here at the library. So these are pictures of the Forest
534 Grove Library that are housed in the Nyuzen Town Library.
535

536 LT: And some of the gift T-shirts.
537

538 CW: Right, right. The City of Forest Grove T-shirts. Right.
539

540 LT: Montinore Vineyards.
541

542 CW: Montinore Vineyards, right.
543

544 (Photo of Japanese children in front of a building)

545 LT: The arrangement doesn't involve only libraries, it involves...
546

547 CW: No. It's a city to city. It was started, actually, by employees of Merrick's??? who were here
548 on an employee exchange. And Merrick's employees went to Nyuzen for an employee exchange
549 and these employees then came up with the idea that if they were going back and forth between
550 these businesses that, um. The business that Merrick's employees went to in Japan was NEC

551 Japan. And, which is located, one of the plants is located in Nyuzen. So it was these employees
552 that came up with the idea of having the city to city exchange. And the cities both agreed readily.
553 The cities have much in common. Nyuzen is larger than Forest Grove but it's an agricultural
554 based community. And there are several other factors. It has a small university so there are
555 several things that made it much like Forest Grove. So the cities made an official arrangement.
556

557 LT: And here's the Forest Grove delegation entering the City Hall in Nyuzen.
558

559 CW: Right. Right. The City Hall. And we were greeted, everywhere we went we were greeted
560 much like this. Either with crowds of applauding people, crowds of singing people, children
561 waving flags. There was always big groups of people who were welcoming us. We were treated
562 like royalty.
563

564 (Photo of Forest Grove delegation)

565 CW: This is a photo of most of the members of the delegation that went in 1992. And from right
566 to left is Barbara Hughson, the Human Resources Manager for the city; Mayor Kidd is behind
567 her; then Erve and Lude Nicolai, he was the former superintendant of schools in Forest Grove
568 and she was the principal at Banks; next to Dr. Nicolai is Barbara Hughson's husband Steve; in
569 front of him is Kasiko Ikeda, the translator for the journey who teaches at Pacific University;
570 behind her is Bob Alexander who was then Executive Director of Forest Grove Chamber of
571 Commerce; next to Dr. Ikeda is a man that lives in Japan who we visited and was part of almost
572 everything we did in Tokyo, who they met through Rotary Exchange, I don't recall his name
573 unfortunately; and then me; and next to me is another translator, and again I've forgotten,
574 unfortunately, his name.
575

576 (Newspaper clipping about Nyuzen delegation visiting Forest Grove)

577 LT: Nyuzen has made it a regular tradition to come with a delegation several times a year to
578 Forest Grove.
579

580 CW: They come in the alternating years, in the odd numbered years. They have sent delegations
581 as large as 30 people. Very often there are about 15 people and they are usually made up of a
582 combination of city employees and town people. In November, however, there's a delegation of
583 students who come for a long weekend each year that Sandy Grey at the high school has
584 arranged for many years.
585

586 LT: And here's Linda Minor greeting one of the delegations.
587

588 CW: Yes. We've had the good fortune to have them come often to the library. And also, at the
589 city's encouragement, many of our employees have taken advantage of being a part of the tour
590 and going with the delegation in a van or bus and going to the Gorge or the beach or something,
591 just as part of that exchange.
592

593 (Photos are done – returns to CW in person)
594

595 LT: So in addition to sister cities, there's been a lot of other things going on in the 90's. You've
596 mentored several librarians-to-be, the employees that later went to get their MLS's.

597

598 CW: Yes, yes.

599

600 LT: That would include?

601

602 CW: That would include... Well, I would have to say I was so well mentored that I was really
603 pleased that I had the opportunity to encourage other folks in the same way that I was
604 encouraged. So it began with Judy Falzone who we hired as a library clerk. She went away to
605 Indiana University and got her Masters in Library Science and she is now working in a library in
606 Indiana. She's in charge of their technical services. April Braymer was another library employee
607 who went away to library school and I'm not sure where she's working now. She lives in Utah
608 and she was working for Dynix, our automation system. And then most recently, Linda Minor,
609 who came to us as a library clerk also. After working here a few years she got her MLS from the
610 University of Illinois via the internet. She was one of the first employees in the state to
611 accomplish that. Now folks are doing it, not routinely, but more often than not. But she was one
612 of the very first. In fact she gave a program on it at one of the Oregon Library Association
613 conferences, and it was unique. And so now she is an official librarian. She is...and because of
614 our staffing situation we were able to add a full-time reference position shortly after she got her
615 MLS and we were able to hire her as an official reference librarian.

616

617 LT: ...what that was like to get an MLS via the internet and how that really put you in a good
618 position at this point, the time in the '90s when the internet came to libraries to stay and had a
619 tremendous impact on what we do and how we do it, which might lead into the kind of
620 things... What have you seen in terms of the '90s, changes that have happened in the library
621 world in terms of why people come to the library and how they use it? Where do you see the
622 future going?

623

624 CW: Well it's the biggest question on our minds currently. We have seen, most recently in the
625 late '90's dramatic changes in how people use this building. And while we've been able to
626 maintain a very good collection we've had increased materials budget for the last several years,
627 we have more open hours, we actually have fewer people coming into the building. And starting
628 in January this year we began going a survey to ask people as they get off our terminals, what
629 they were doing, why they were here, and if they were used to coming here before and how their
630 library use patterns had changed. And what we're learning from that is many people are coming
631 here solely for the purpose of using our internet terminals, and that piece of information is going
632 to change forever how we think about doing a library business. We will spend the greater part of
633 this next year thinking about that bit of information, what it means as far as everything, certainly
634 our new building, staffing, collection development, what it means to say that the only reason
635 people are coming in here is because we have the internet. They don't ever check out a book,
636 they don't ever take advantage of any other resources other than the internet.

637

638 LT: This is nationally significant because when, as the '90's progressed Washington County
639 basically became the first largest, or fairly largest in the nation to have an internet interface on
640 every terminal along with their circulation system. That kind of put them on the cutting edge in
641 providing that to patrons. So we're sort of the first news of how this impacts people coming out
642 of Washington County.

643

644 CW: Right. Circulation, which used to be the common measure of library usage, the actual
645 number of items that people checked out each year, that number is decreasing rapidly,
646 dramatically, ours was down double digits last year.

647

648 LT: And throughout the '90's what would you say the average annual circulation has been for
649 this library?

650

651 CW: It has been consistently between 200 and 220 thousand items, and last year it was 185 or
652 something like that. Down a lot, not a little, a lot. And the actual number of people who came in
653 was fewer. Everything was down, all the numbers by which we measure, workload indicators by
654 which they're called in our budget, almost all of them were down.

655

656 LT: When we look at our collection size over the course of the '90s, what can you say about
657 that?

658

659 CW: It has grown from...well; I don't know where it was exactly in 1990. The size of the book
660 collection now is about 80,000 volumes. The whole materials collection, that includes
661 everything, CDs, CD-ROMs, which is a new thing that we've added, the latest of the new
662 products, or media, that is out there. We're going to have a have a new conversation pretty soon
663 about DVDs because people are starting to ask why we don't have DVDs. But the collection,
664 which includes books, CDs, CD-ROMs, videos, many videos, is over 100,000 items.

665

666 LT: And at what juncture...when this library was built there was sort of a number that was
667 banted about as this building would have reached capacity at which point?

668

669 CW: Right, that was in the city's...I just forgot the name of the document, the city's
670 comprehensive plan. It said when the libraries collection reached, I believe it was 60,000
671 volumes, that it would be time for a library expansion. And that actual number occurred a
672 number of years ago.

673

674 LT: And so when you see the history of the library for many, many, many years housed in a
675 small building with basically books, I mean there were a few magazines, a daily paper, and
676 starting in the '70's when cassettes became available, and things began to basically mushroom.
677 The types of media that people were requesting, the types of formats available, and the collection
678 sizes exploding because of the changes in the publishing industry and what you could get. And
679 so, rapidly, this building has exceeded its capacity.

680

681 CW: Right. We've added about all the shelving that we feel we could comfortably add. We've
682 used up all the space we used to have programs in. We used to do all of our programming both
683 for children and adults, or most of the adult programming out in the main part of the library. All
684 of that now has been eaten up by shelving and furniture. there is no open space any more.

685

686 LT: And there's no room for more computers. This building wasn't designed to accommodate
687 technology just a few short years ago, that wasn't an issue.

688

689 CW: No. When this building was built, to Mike's credit, he decided so it would be very easy to
690 wire it for computers. So the five that we got originally with the Dynix system, that was pretty
691 easy to install those because he had thought ahead, but as we're now, we're up to twenty plus
692 computers which, well, they're split pretty evenly between staff and patrons, and we're hoping to
693 add six more in the very near future. Yes, everything from wiring to flat out not having the space
694 to put them is becoming quite an issue. And patrons, I might add, demand, are demanding more
695 and more. They don't like having to wait to use the internet. Even when we have a thirty minute
696 time limit we still have much waiting for internet use.

697
698 LT: And it wasn't too many years ago that even just having an old manual typewriter for people
699 to come in and type their reports on was considered good library service. Today people are
700 saying two word processing computers that are exclusively for patron use are not enough. They
701 want to do homework. They want to write their resumes. That's part of the public library now.

702
703 CW: That's right.

704
705 LT: In addition, there has been another facilities challenge in the '90's. Though this is a small,
706 rural community, relatively speaking, it's got a low crime rate, and being next door to the police
707 department has come in handy even so, on occasion.

708
709 CW: Yes it has. We have had several occasions to call the Forest Grove Police who are quite
710 wonderful and responsive in meeting our needs. Probably the most memorable ones have to do
711 with the book drop. We've replaced our back book drop on three separate occasions. Probably
712 most notably when a resident stole a police car and drove it threw the back of the library and
713 took out our book drop. That was some time ago but was fairly entertaining.

714
715 LT: Drove it into the building, or just...?

716
717 CW: Well, they drove it around the planters back there that are full of, the big ceramic pots,
718 drove it threw several of those, and took out the book drop and they eventually arrested her
719 several blocks away still in the police car. We had a school bus driver take it out about two years
720 ago, and then just this last fall we got to replace it again when a person's car didn't work the way
721 it was supposed to.

722
723 LT: There has also been some vandalism...

724
725 CW: Vandalism, yes, and this has become the norm, I guess, for public buildings. The graffiti,
726 we've had problems with that. Gang graffiti, that seems to be the thing that we get most
727 commonly. We have to report that to the police. They track...they take pictures of it and track to
728 try to assess that. We've had, our great big front windows have had bullet holes shot in them and
729 we were dismayed to learn they cost \$1000 a piece to repair, and we found that out when we
730 repaired one, and then the next day, or the next week had it shot with a bullet.

731
732 LT: So that's been a challenge. And some of the facilities issues have been more to do with
733 plumbing, and repairs.

734

735 CW: The roof. We can't get very far into this without talking about the roof, and I'm guessing
736 some of the other folks have mentioned the roof as well. It leaked pretty much from the day this
737 facility was completed. When I started working here in '81 it was leaking. There were nights in
738 the early '80's when as we left each night we just took the black plastic tarp and would cover
739 certain sections of the library where we knew it was going to leak, and we did that for quite some
740 time. And then the city and the actual manufacturer of the roof which was Dow Chemical, the
741 city threatened a lawsuit if they didn't do something about it, and they came and replaced the
742 entire roof. That was in...it might have been 1990 actually. It's a perfectly flat roof, and that's
743 it's problem, or one of them anyway. Last year we had the problem of some rather significant
744 holes developing in the membrane. It's a layered roof, and above the ceiling there are several
745 different layers of materials and one of them was a membrane. So when the roof leaked it went
746 down to a membrane that was made of plastic. It got holes in it and it came down, you were
747 working here at the time so you remember this well. Quite literally, buckets is not the right word,
748 it came down into a swimming pool that the fire department loaned us that housed 3,000 gallons
749 of water. They were charged with emptying the buckets. There were so many they decided one
750 night they were done with that and they had this big pool, and they brought that over so for the
751 better part of two months we had what looked like an outdoor pool in our reference section.

752
753 LT: Near the computers. They were so popular.

754
755 CW: Right in front of the computers, right between the service desk and the computers. It was a
756 very frustrating time and to the staff's credit, the staff who has endured summers without air
757 conditioning and other fairly entertaining but frustrating building situations, to the staff's credit
758 they made the best of it by having a contest and asking patrons their best ideas for what to do
759 with this new water feature that we had, and we got through it with some humor.

760
761 LT: And the swimming pool, the concept of having swimming lessons along with story time for
762 summer reading I think was one of the suggestions.

763
764 CW: Oh yes, there were many. The patrons were very clever, and very concerned. We have
765 wonderful patrons and they are always so worried about us. They brought treats and things to
766 help us get through it.

767
768 LT: That was around the same time that the new Polaris system was...

769
770 CW: Yes, it was unfortunately about the time we installed our new computer system, and it made
771 for some very...very beleaguered employees. But we survived.

772
773 LT: And the community bore with us.

774
775 CW: Yes they did.

776
777 LT: And which leads us to the plan for the plan for the new millennium. We more than double
778 the size of the existing library, and remodel it from end to end...

779
780 CW: Right.

781

782 LT: ...to accommodate the new technology.

783

784 CW: It will accommodate what we hope will be the needs of the Forest Grove City Library until
785 the year 2020. We were fortunate that we didn't have to make some of the decisions that other
786 libraries have to around that issue. The city already owned the adjoining property; we didn't have
787 to talk about location. We were able to pass a bond measure. The library expansion is one of the
788 components along with the aquatic center along with some acquisition of some additional park
789 property that will be somewhere down the road. When that passed that enabled us to have the
790 addition, which as you mentioned is going to be about 12,000 square feet which will more than
791 double the size of the building. We decided, once we began looking at how that was going to
792 shake out that the current building would be best served if it were remodeled to accommodate,
793 rather than just tacking on another 12,000 square feet and trying to make good use of that. That it
794 made more sense to remodel this building so that it worked better, that the flow made more
795 sense. However the bond money will not accomplish that, there is not enough money for that. So
796 we have, in January, hired a Portland firm to begin a capital campaign to raise between a million
797 and a million and a half dollars for the remodel.

798

799 LT: And so, going into the new millennium with the early remodel.

800

801 CW: The timeline calls for the construction of this project to begin in the spring of 2001. The
802 first phase is the addition, which within a year once they've started the remodel will follow after
803 that. The new building, as I've said, we hope that we're thinking about this right and we're
804 thinking about the way the use of the library has changed. We're going to have to do a good job
805 of thinking exactly how this is going to work. And one of the things that we're wanting to get
806 established is that not only are we going to have more computers and they are going to be spread
807 throughout the library and we're going to try to meet the demand for additional computers, but
808 we're going to have more books. Knowing that there's always...our belief is, and this is based on
809 fact, that even though circulation is down, we still have users who come here for the sole purpose
810 of checking out a stack of books. The types of books they're checking out, however, are
811 changing. We're seeing fewer non-fiction books because people seem to be getting those types
812 of things off the internet, but our fiction circulation has increased, our children's book circulation
813 has increased. Focus on those areas where we know the internet is not going to replace how
814 people are doing business. So the collection will be larger, two of the areas that are going to be
815 bigger are the children's area will be more than double in size to accommodate what we see as
816 something that isn't going to change is the number of children who come here for summer
817 reading and for story time and for after school work, we expect that that will continue. So the
818 children's area will be substantially larger. The meeting rooms will be larger to accommodate the
819 size of the programs. That's been an ongoing problem now for the last really 10 years. As the
820 programs get too big we've had to do some things around Summer Reading particularly where
821 we've had to hand out tickets and actually count the number of children that go in rather than just
822 say it's open to all.

823

824 LT: And that means some had to get sent away because there wasn't enough tickets.

825

826 CW: That's right. And that happens around some of the adult programming that The Friends do
827 too, because this room just won't hold all the people that come. So we'll have a much larger
828 meeting room. Other areas that will be enlarged is the staff work room, that will be slightly
829 larger. The area for our Spanish collection is going to be significantly larger. Again, knowing
830 that that is one area of the population that is, not only is the size of the population increasing, but
831 the number of people who are using the library is increasing. It's wonderful. We've done a good
832 job, I think, of...we're going something right in that area because more people who are either
833 monolingual or bilingual are using our collection and coming to the building so we will further
834 encourage that by having that area increased in the new building.

835
836 LT: And some things like the video collection, there will actually be a space designed to
837 accommodate it rather than having new formats and new technologies introduced and not have to
838 find a corner to cram them in.

839
840 CW: We'll be knowing in advance, so as I say we're going to have to make some decisions
841 about the size of certain collections and whether or not and whether they are going to grow or not
842 before we move into this building. Magazines are another big issue. We have right now about
843 260, 270 magazine subscriptions and again making a decision. They take up a lot of space, not
844 only the current issue, but the ones we house upstairs, the back issues. Trying to, using this
845 information that we're getting about how people are using those, they can get full text off of the
846 computers. Some of those magazines we used to get because they had really good articles in
847 them, people are downloading that and they don't need us to have five years worth of Time.

848
849 LT: They can come into the library now, look at full text magazine articles on any topic and
850 email those to their home without ever having a paper copy, which...and it still boggles patron's
851 minds. They just don't...so there's a constant state of flux because people are still in this
852 incredible learning curve about what is available here that wasn't two or three or four or five
853 years ago even.

854
855 CW: One of the things that is going to be an important component of our decision making
856 around this new building, and about not just the building and the expansion but about library
857 service, and where we are going to go with that. As I mentioned we're going to be spending the
858 better part of next year looking at the numbers and looking at the usage and staffing and all of
859 that to make sure we're going the right thing. But one of the factors that will be considered are
860 what we know to be the 'have not's' as we call them, the people who don't have computers at
861 home. They don't...they can't afford it, they don't have access to one at work, they come here
862 because they have free access. And so insuring that we are continuing to meet that need of
863 people who cannot and will not ever have one in their home, I mean their entitled to have the
864 same education and quality of life as the people who can afford it. And that's one of our
865 responsibilities and we've been pretty consistent about that, I think.

866
867 LT: The education plays into that, not only as there's been an increase in homeschooling in the
868 '90's but also, with the technological changes in society our role of teaching people how to use
869 the internet and how to use computers and just how to access information with the formats
870 constantly changing. That role has increased.

871

872 CW: That's really changed the role of librarians from helping people find what they need in a
873 book is now more of teacher. To actually show them how to use the resource, show them how to
874 search the internet, and you'd mentioned home-schooling. Another component that we haven't
875 talked about is how the schools in Forest Grove have had such a decrease in their librarians, they
876 have two now for the entire district. They used to have one in every building, a professional
877 librarian in every building. The ramification of that has been that we're now providing more of
878 the services that they used to provide in the schools. So the classes are being brought here for
879 library skills, and we're doing some of the teaching that used to be done by librarians in the
880 schools.

881
882 LT: And there was certainly a flux in the '90's that a year and two years ago with the major
883 construction bond in the district, all the buildings were remodeled. Most of the libraries were
884 impacted in some...like in Harvey Clark the library was closed for the entire school year. Some
885 of them were just closed for part of the year, but that had an enormous impact. And now that's
886 subsided but there was a lot of interesting ramifications that we saw a lot of kids in the public
887 library that we would not have otherwise seen.

888
889 CW: That's right. We were Plan B for that. We enabled, well, we supported I think is a better
890 word. We supported the school district. They told us it was going to happen and we facilitated
891 that by making our resources and staff available to them...

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