

1 **Telling Our Story: Honoring the Past**
2 **The History of the Forest Grove Library**

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4 *Volume 6: The 1990's. Interview with Linda Minor, Colleen Winters, Ann Dondero, and Angela*
5 *Brown, and 1992 WCCLS P.R.*
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9 Narrator: Telling Our Story: Honoring the Past Volume 6. This volume opens with a 1992 public
10 relations promotion from Washington County Cooperative Library Services (WCCLS). Now in
11 the year 2000 much of this information appears dated and obsolete.

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13 (WCCLS promotion begins playing – various shots of library usage with narration and music):
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15 Narrator: people use libraries for a variety of reasons. To help find a job; to read up on do-it-
16 yourself projects; to learn about the world, or the universe for that matter; to participate in a
17 children's story hour; to discover the joy of books; and to catch up on the news. Libraries are
18 there when you need information about community services or you need to locate consumer
19 information; to find books in Spanish or Japanese; or to check out a bestseller, a video, or a
20 compact disc.

21
22 There are several types of libraries in Washington County: public libraries, school libraries,
23 corporate or special libraries, and academic libraries. In 1976 these libraries joined together to
24 form the Washington County Cooperative Library Services, a network of locally governed
25 agencies working together to serve you, the residents of Washington County. There are 11 public
26 libraries in Washington County. In most of the incorporated areas, the public library is part of
27 city government. The seven cities of Beaverton, Cornelius, Forest Grove, Hillsboro, Sherwood,
28 Tigard, and Tualatin operate public libraries.

29 (shows photos of each library)

30 Hillsboro also has a full service branch library at Tanasborne.

31 In the Cedar Mill area the community library is governed by a local non-profit organization. The
32 Banks community library and the West Slope community library are administered by the county.
33 The cooperative's membership also included corporate libraries at Intel, PGE, Tektronix, and
34 Sequent; and research libraries, namely the Washington County Law Library and the Oregon
35 Regional Primate Center Library.

36 (continues to show the libraries mentioned)

37 Libraries in the medical field include St. Vincent's and Tuality Hospitals and the Tuality Health
38 Information Resource Center, a consumer health information library. The cooperative includes
39 high school libraries, the Oregon School of Arts and Crafts, and the Academic libraries of Pacific
40 University, Portland Community College, and the Oregon Graduate Institute.

41 (shows the academic libraries)

42
43 Through the cooperative library services you, as a county resident, have available for your use
44 the library and information resources of the entire county. In addition, the cooperative maintains
45 agreements with Clackamas and Multnomah County's and the Fort Vancouver Regional Library

46 system in southwest Washington. So that the Washington County resident can borrow materials
47 from public libraries in neighboring counties without having to pay a fee.
48

49 The cooperative library services operate as a department of county government and is funded by
50 a dedicated, serial levy. The current 3-year levy expires in June of 1993. The policies at the
51 cooperative are formed by a county-wide library advisory board whose members are appointed
52 by the county commissioners to represent the cities that operate public libraries, the Cedar Mill
53 Community Library Association, and the county at large. County-wide services provided by the
54 cooperative include a computerized card catalog, nicknamed WILI, which contains records of all
55 materials owned by the 11 public libraries and two of the special libraries. Through WILI, users
56 can identify the locations of library materials, whether the items are available for loan, and can
57 place reserves for materials at any other WILI library. Library staff use WILI to keep track of the
58 over 3 million items that are checked out each year. In addition to the library catalog, WILI
59 includes the community resource directory of agencies offering services to county residents.
60

61 Linking all member libraries, the courier service transports over 35,000 items each month, or
62 almost one ton of material each day, from one library to another, so residents can pick up and
63 return materials at the location most convenient to them. Another county-wide program provided
64 by the cooperative is the reference service, which provides back-up reference service to member
65 libraries. Libraries throughout the county refer questions to the reference service when they don't
66 have the staff or materials to answer them. The reference service also arranges to borrow
67 materials that are not available within the county. Through a nation-wide computer network,
68 Cooperative Library Services staff is able to borrow books and journal articles from all over the
69 United States. For those county residents who can not easily get to a library, whether they're
70 homebound or rurally isolated, the Cooperative Library Services provides a books by mail
71 program that sends books to individuals through the mail. This program prepares and distributes
72 a catalog of popular paperback titles which readers may use to make selections. Materials are
73 requested by mail or telephone. Orders are filled at a central location and mailed to the reader's
74 home. (photos of mailboxes and people getting their mail)

75 Another service provided by the cooperative is the outreach to the elderly and handicapped
76 program, which brings large-print and recorded books to homebound individuals, many of whom
77 live in health care and residential centers. The outreach staff selects and delivers materials either
78 in person or through the mail. A collection of several thousand large-print books is available to
79 outreach patrons and to the general public through public libraries. (photos of library employees
80 with elderly)

81 In 1976, the population of Washington County was just under 200,000 and public libraries
82 circulated a combined total 600,000 books. Fifteen years later the population has grown by over
83 50% to 311,000 and the number of items borrowed from the public libraries has increased by
84 500% to over 3,000,000 items each year. As the county grows, the libraries of the county also are
85 growing and planning for the increasing information needs of its residents. The cooperative plans
86 to install a larger computer in 1993 to handle the increasing number of users and materials. This
87 will help libraries deal with the several million items loaned each year and provide the capacity
88 for more terminals which means better, easier access by users. In addition, the new computer will
89 allow individuals to dial-up WILI from home. (photos of computers)
90

91 Information has literally become the currency of the modern world and libraries are meeting the
92 challenge of providing information for today as well as for tomorrow. (photos of patrons using
93 various library services) Libraries hold the key for survival in our rapidly changing time. They
94 are our investment for the future. And Washington County residents are investing wisely.
95 (WCCLS promotion ends.)