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The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde Tribal Library

by **Marion Mercier**
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Ronde Tribal Library

The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde's Tribal Library collection began in 1990 with a handful of donated books that were shelved over an office desk. Through IMLS grant awards, continued donations from community members, and Tribal funding, the collection has grown to just over 5,000 items today.

The Tribal Library moved into its current location within the Tribal Education Facilities in May 2002. The library is approximately 1,500 square feet in size and contains areas for the children/youth collections, a space to hold story time, a young adult area with room for the Homework Center, and general space for leisure reading. The library also has two computer stations with Internet access, locations for materials such as videos, magazines, and newspapers, and a significant Native American collection, including general information about the Tribe.

The Tribal Library has one full-time staff, the Librarian, which is funded by the Tribe. We have one part-time staff, the Library Aide, which is funded by an IMLS Native American Library Services Basic Grant. We also have two volunteers, one who works at the library on Saturdays and one who helps with special events and displays. The library is open eight hours per day Monday through Friday and four hours on Saturday.



Outside of the Grand Ronde Tribal library.

The Library has provided services to over 5,000 visitors this year. This number has increased from the 800 visitors we had in 2004. Just over 700 Library cards have been issued, of which approximately 60 percent are held by active patrons. The Tribal Library is open to the general public and cards are issued to local residents and those from nearby communities. The library has had just over 6,000 circulations this year. Almost 900 visitors have come in to use the computers this year.

The Tribal Library sponsors a number of activities and events each year. Activities for 2006 include:

- National Library Week with literary trivia and visitor prize drawings
- Annual open house event with tribal history presentations and book spotlights
- Summer reading incentive program: 240 books read by 12 participants
- Summer program for youth grades K–5
- Summer creature feature for youth grades 6–12
- Summer cultural enhancement classes for high school youth
- Series of three family literacy workshops
- Early literacy workshop for parents and staff
- Various exhibits, including Lewis & Clark bicentennial, healthy kids, and exploring cultures



- Culture classes/workshop for adults, including basketry
- Weekly story time for pre-school and K-5 program
- Monthly poetry recital/reading
- Veteran's event, held November 4

We try to offer interesting activities that draw people into the library. We welcome recommendations for new additions to the collection from our patrons. Many of our purchases are based on patron recommendations. Donations are accepted, but the library does reserve the right to determine what will be added to the collection.

Our library is really nice and we would love to have you come in and visit when you are in the area. 🌸



Marion reading a book to her great-niece, Sophia MorningStar.



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