Children’s Section

Children may enjoy picture books, easy readers, board books, and Spanish bilingual books while relaxing on the “kid-size” furniture. Their imagination will take charge when playing on the train table, building with blocks, satisfying their curiosity with the learning walls, or making a fabulous meal in the play kitchen. Sparking their creativity at the craft table is also a constructive way to spend their time.

Made possible by Mr. and Mrs. Otto “Jimmy” Borchers, the Pilot Club of Yoakum, the Tocker Foundation and funds from various other grants and individuals.

Teen Section

Teens will enjoy their very own section packed with tons of fun reads and audio books. The charging ports in the booth and bar are perfect for their cell phone, portable device, or laptop. They can also enjoy relaxing on the comfy lounging chairs while doing their homework, reading, listening to music, or indulging in one of the popular magazines just for them.

Designed by the Teen Advisory Committee and Library Interiors of Texas. Funded by the Hancher Foundation.

Genealogy

Yoakum lies in DeWitt and Lavaca Counties and houses information on both counties.

Some collections are not complete.

Special Collections:
Yoakum City Birth Records 1910-1948
Yoakum City Death Records 1910-1947
Yoakum Herald Times, Death Record Index 1898-1942
Yoakum Herald Times Highlights
Beck-Buffington Funeral Home Records 1910-1973
Obituaries 1898-present (some not available)
DeWitt & Lavaca County Cemetery/Tombstone Records
DeWitt & Lavaca County Marriage Records
DeWitt & Lavaca County History Records
Yoakum School Annuals
St. Joseph Catholic School Annuals
San Antonio Aransas Pass Railroad History
Telephone Books
City Directories
Family Files
DAR & SAR Indexes
War of 1812 Indexes
Mexican War Pensions

Portal To Texas History
Yoakum Herald Times
Yoakum 1st 100 Years Book

Expanded TEXAS HISTORY SECTION

Other Services

FREE Library Cards
Free Wi-Fi/Internet
Pubic Computers
Movies (DVD/BluRay)
Books in Print
Audio Books
Paperback Book Service
Creative Kids Program
Summer Reading Program
FREE ABCMouse
Interlibrary Loans
Adult Large Print Books
Adult Spanish Books
Online Card Catalog & App
TexShare Databases

Pre-Teen Programs
Teen Programs
Teen Advisory Committee
Adult & Senior Programs
Concerts
Adult ESL Classes
Books For Sale
Christmas Celebration
Dr. Seuss Birthday Party
Friends of the Library
GED Books
Artifact Display
National Geographic
Overdrive E-books
Website & Facebook

Carl & Mary Welhausen
Public Library

810 Front St.
Yoakum, TX 77995
Phone #: (361) 293-5001
www.cityofyoakum.org/library

Hours of Operation
Monday - Friday
9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Closed on City observed holidays

3/2019
The History of the Carl and Mary Welhausen Library

and the organization of the Friends of the Library

The Library was organized in 1933 by the Philomathic Club with the help of Work Project Administration (the WPA commonly refers to the many agencies established by the Federal Government in the 1930s during Franklin D. Roosevelt’s administration). J.W. Cook offered space in the back of his office to house the newly organized library (which is now the Yoakum Herald Times – 312 Lott St.).

In 1953, the Philomathic Club asked the City to take over the library, the City agreed, but did not officially assume any responsibility at that time. The Library was moved to a building in another part of town, known as the “Beck Building” on Nelson St. in 1955.

In 1968, the City gave the library a more “permanent” location when they relocated to a building formerly utilized as City Hall on E. Hugo St. The Library was officially accepted as part of the City’s organization in 1971, when they assumed all financial responsibility. Virginia Ferrell was hired in 1975 as the Librarian and served for over 29 years. Her leadership was essential in the development of the Library as it is today. The Library became a member of the South Texas Library System in 1976.

The first ever Library Board was formed in December, 1970 followed by the Friends of the Library Organization in 1978. City officials offered their old Municipal Power Plant to the Friends of the Library after it had been deemed of historic significance and worthy of adaptive reuse. The plant had previously been utilized as the City’s Mechanic Garage for approximately 20 years.

The Friends of the Library played a major role in the renovation project that began in 1988. Funding for the project included a $100,000 matching federal grant under the Library Services and Construction Act (LSCA), $50,000 from the Meadows Foundation, and $85,000 from the local Welhausen family, after whom the library is named. Additional financial support was provided by community businesses, residents, and the City of Yoakum. The project came to completion in 1991, and the opening dedication was held on Sunday, April 21, 1991.

The Library was named a “Historic Site” by the Texas Historical Commission in 1993; and a historical marker was placed in front of the building. The 50 foot ceilings, mezzanine, original brick walls, 3-bay primary façade, large metal sash windows, a 5-part parapet with incised name block, and gable roof with protruding clerestory windows serve as a reminder of Yoakum’s rich history.

The Library has received the “Best Adaptive Reuse of an Existing Building Award” from the Texas Downtown Association; was formerly included in the National Register of Historic Places; and recognized by the U.S. Department of Interior in 1996.

A children’s section was expanded in 2007, with the generous donation of local residents, Mr. and Mrs. Otto “Jimmy” Borchers. The addition of Spanish bilingual books was made possible by a grant through the Texas Book Festival in 2016 and a generous donation by a patron in 2018. In 2017, the Tocker Foundation funded the addition of activity centers within this section including two learning walls, silly mirrors, a play kitchen, building blocks, a train table, and wooden garage.

The Library was very fortunate in 2011 and 2012, to have received funding through the Tocker Foundation. Grant funds along with donations from the Augusta Jannett Estate and Nanni Rae Baker Estate, allowed the library to purchase new book shelves, tables, chairs, magazine racks, and a circulation desk.

The Ladd & Katherine Hancher Foundation generously granted the library $25,000 for the formation of a new Teen Section, in 2018. This included a booth, lounging chairs, display wall, booth, additional shelving, rug, wall decorations, and new material on the shelves. The library had a facelift in 2018-2019 as a result of Hurricane Harvey (summer of 2017). Charla Borchers Leon & Mary Kay Borchers generously donated the funds for interior re-painting and the exterior library sign. The library re-opened to the public on February 11, 2019. A grand re-opening was held on February 25, 2019.