

Big Library Made Up Of 16 Units

Yakima Valley Regional Library, depending on how you look at it, is either one large library or 16 smaller ones.

Although not all of the libraries in Yakima Valley communities are affiliated with the regional library, most of those in the smaller towns are part of the regional setup. Twelve town libraries automatically became part of the Yakima Valley Regional Library when it was formed in 1951 and three others have been added as city officials and persons in the communities thought best.

Quarters Provided

In entering into a contract with Yakima Valley Regional Library, local libraries agree to provide:

- Satisfactory library quarters maintenance and equipment;
- A library board to administer library affairs, and
- An amount of money equal to two mills taxation on the assessed evaluation of the city government, paid to the regional library.

Help From Regional

On the other hand, the regional library provides:

- Librarian's salary and adequate help;
- Services of the regional librarian, branch supervisor, reference librarian, catalog librarian, children's and young adult librarians;
- A catalog of books if the local library collection totals more than 7,000 books;
- Supplies and books purchased with pooled funds for larger discounts;

Training Arranged

—Joint participation in programs and special services such as the summer reading program, in-service training programs for local librarians and program planning institutes, and

—Books and materials which are consistent with the needs of the local library.

Washington library law provides that it is not necessary to take a vote of the people to decide the question of affiliation with a regional library.

One Of Six

It is brought about, however, by a request from the local library board to the local city government which enters into a contract for library service from the regional library. The Yakima Valley Regional Library is one of six regional libraries which have been established in the state.

Trustees of the Yakima County Rural Library District certify the county's share of the annual budget to the county commissioners. State library law limits this request to an amount equal to 2 mills of the assessed valuation of property in the county exclusive of those cities operating their own libraries.

1.81 Mills Assigned

A similar amount is requested annually from the Yakima City Commission for its share in the regional library operation. Last year the city provided an appropriation equal to 1.81 mills of its valuation.

Yakima Valley Regional Library operates on one budget, however, a fact which eliminates pro rating of every item for salaries and expenditures shared by the Yakima library and Valley libraries.

Libraries in the regional system in unincorporated Valley communities are at Buena, Gleed, Nile, Terrace Heights, Tieton, Tietonview and White Swan. Contracting libraries in incorporated Valley cities are at Granger, Harrah, Mabton, Naches, Sunnyside, Union Gap, Zillah and Moxee. Each community library has a local librarian and additional help as needed.

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