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Connie Turner, left, and Lola Dickens look at another book to add to the box of books they already planned to purchase Friday at the Yakima Valley Regional Library

book sale in Yakima. It was the fourth time in two days the pair shopped at the sale — between them they bought 128 books. On Thursday, the library sold 9,050 books.

Readers Can't Refuse Deal

The library was hoping to get enough sales at least to cover advertising, and it did in the first few hours

By ED STOVER

YAKIMA HERALD-REPUBLIC

The box of used books and tapes on Billie Haas' lap might as well have been gold bullion. "This whole box for just \$4.75?" exclaimed the 71-year-old Yakima woman Friday, holding her treasure while taking a break from poring over some 20,000 books and videorecording tapes that are being sold for 25 cents each as part of the Yakima Valley Regional Library's first-ever "Big Book Sale."

The three-day event, which ends today at 5:30 p.m., is being held in the basement of the main library, 102 N. Third St., Yakima. The idea is to weed out extraneous material from the library's 19 branches to make room for new goods, but library officials, never having done a book sale before, weren't prepared for the response they got.

"There were more than 100 people

"There were more than 100 people lined up waiting for us to open the doors the first day."

MONICA WEYHE
Library director

lined up waiting for us to open the doors the first day," said library director Monica Weyhe. Friday morning was a repeat, with a somewhat smaller line-up.

Adult services manager Linda McCracken said Friday morning she could only guess how many people

THE SALE

Today is the final day of the Yakima Valley Regional Library's first-ever "Big Book Sale." Hours are 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. in the basement of the main library, 102 N. Third St., Yakima.

passed through the basement room where the books, tapes and videos are being arrayed on tables by staff and volunteers.

"It felt like 10,000 — it was a steady stream until 9 last night," said McCracken, adding that some 9,000 volumes were sold Thursday (more than 3,000 were sold Friday). She looked around the room, adding, "I recognize some of these faces as being here yesterday — they're

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BOOKS/Need for Space Prompts Sale

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back for more."

Weyhe said the library has been surplussing material for quite awhile. Some has been duplicated, some is in poor condition, some is no longer in demand.

"Basically, we couldn't store any more," she said, adding that the library periodically sells off over-the-hill material through a local auctioneer. Also, there is a stand in the main library where surplus volumes are available. But there was an immediate need for storage space, so a

decision was made to hold a book sale.

"It was a good time 'cause we didn't want to compete with the YMCA book sale (which is over with)," said Weyhe.

McCracken said library officials initially hoped to at least earn enough to pay for advertising the sale. "We did that probably within the first two hours, so everything we make now will go right back into the library," she said.

The sale, meanwhile, is bringing in people of all ages and interests, though McCracken said the main demand has been

for "media" (video and audio tapes) and children's books. But there is also a healthy interest in nonfiction and adult fiction.

Billie Haas had a little bit of everything in her box. She had some mysteries and Westerns for husband Ron, and a number of volumes for herself, including an audio tape of David France's book, "An Inconvenient Woman," and a couple of Dominick Dunne adventures.

"I tell you when the snow flies next winter, there I'll be on the couch, reading away," she said.