



UMATILLA COUNTY SPECIAL LIBRARY DISTRICT

Strengthening our community libraries

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A Gray January Day and...

It was a dark and stormy night. A light snow was falling that January evening in Umatilla County. Not only was it gloomy, the howling wind made it seem colder and lonelier than usual. Our family found themselves at home looking at each other. What to do? They piled into the car and started off looking for warmer pursuits. Hawaii sounded inviting, but that wasn't happening. Just ahead their brightly lit local library beckoned for them to stop and explore it.

Tumbling into the library, they asked the staff what was available. As library card holders, in good standing, it was explained they had a plethora of options to choose from. The younger kids spotted the children's section and sprinted off to investigate. Their first discovery was an inviting AWE computer specifically designed to target early childhood education. The library staff later explained most libraries in the County, though not all, have an AWE computer. After exploring the AWE computer, they found some puppets and began to tell the story of Goldilocks. Midway through the story they spied the children's DVDs. Selecting two videos they ran back to the front desk to check them out. Then it was back for further exploration – this time in the children's books.

Meanwhile, the oldest, a teen, too cool to be seen with parents, slithered away, and stumbled into the teen section. Sequestered in the teen section, an abundance of materials for teens was found. First it was off to peruse the teen DVDs; and then nonchalantly look at the book collections. Finding John Green's *The Fault in Our Stars*, it was off to check out the book.

While the rest of the family was off to the far corners of the library, Mom and Dad were discovering the services their local library offered. Dad learned he could check out books for the new e-reader he received for Christmas. Mom learned about Rosetta Stone on-line and now wants to learn Japanese for her dream trip to Japan. They also learned their local library still has the "traditional" materials which have been found in the city libraries in Umatilla County for the past 100 years.

On their way out the door our family picked up a brochure and learned much of the funding for their library's services came from the Umatilla County Special Library District. After rediscovering their local library, our family set a date to return again.



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