



CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, SACRAMENTO

DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY

October 2, 2013

Library Journal's Award for the
Best Small Library in America
Library Journal
160 Varick Street, 11th Floor
New York, NY 10013

Re: Best Little Library in America
Round Valley Library

Library Journal Award Staff:

I've been coming to Round Valley for many years as a working anthropologist to do research on and for the local Indian community composed of several different and opposing tribes placed there in 1856. In more recent years I've combined this interest with studying at a Covelo textile studio.

Local libraries are always a prominent interest for a researching scholar because they cast that local view. Through strong community efforts the Round Valley Covelo Library has moved from a musty building to a sound building in the center of the community (former restaurant). The building has been developed not only into a clean beautifully organized library but has installed portions of this large building (7000 square feet) into a commons room, a coffee shop, a radio station, and storage areas.

The Library has revolving exhibits of local history and art. I first went there to view an exhibit on the local Native population and was delighted to see the balanced view of the many tribes forced to live together on the reservation – and with a non-Indian community adjacent to the Reservation. These tribes, though diverse in culture continue to maintain strong tribal identities which were aptly presented in the display. I was pleased to observe Native people, particularly students, use the library. Given the long multi-ethnic history and former obvious separate parts of this community it is no small feat to bring these together and for multi-ethnic use of a library.

The Library has revolving exhibits or art and culture which bring broad experiences to the patrons as well. The comfort of a relaxed adjacent community room adds to the ambiance as does the coffee corner.

The community is considered quite remote by many and known for its diversity. I'm pleased both as a patron and regular visitor to experience this "center" develop through the hard work of the local people working together. This library is a strong force in a very small community and is a very best small library very competently serving this population. I strongly recommend them for this very deserving Best Small Library Award.

Sincerely,

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