



Agenda Item			
Information/ Action Item	Board Meeting Date	Regular/Executive Meeting	Agenda Item No.
Information	Nov 30, 2000	Regular	5.3

Subject: Homework Center at Central Library Report Back.

Contact Person

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**Recommended
Action**

Information only.

Background

During the FY 2000-2001 Budget hearings, City Council member David Jones, requested a report back on the potential development of a homework center at the Central Library. This report responds to that request and is scheduled for the December 5th City Council meeting.

**Homework
Centers**

Sacramento Public Library Homework Centers were established to provide assistance to at-risk elementary school youth. The Homework Center program encourages young people in elementary and middle schools to meet their educational goals, stimulates their imaginations, offers them alternative avenues to learning, and helps them succeed in school. Centers have been established at Martin Luther King, Jr. and Colonial Heights libraries. Components:

- Registered students receive individual tutoring from Homework Assistants.
- Students are encouraged to use libraries as places to learn, have fun and grow.
- Centers include books, tutorial and interactive software, and access to Internet resources in basic subjects; math, spelling, writing and reading.
- Centers operate weekdays after school.

We have found that Homework Centers work best when they are in libraries:

- adjacent to schools.
- within a residential area.
- with large numbers of walk-in children.

**Central's Youth
Demographics**

Central's youth demographic is not typical of neighborhood libraries.

- Most children visiting Central on weekdays are members of classes on structured visits.
- Children visiting on weekends are with parents and have limited time.
- The Central Library is not located in a residential neighborhood and few children visit Central Library on their own after school.
- Most youth who visit Central Library on their own are older.
- The needs of this older group are different from younger children.



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Current activities

Central Library services to the younger population reflect its unique demographics and include:

- weekend children's programming.
- structured class visits during the school day.

Recently, Central staff has begun to focus on older youth, a group often underserved in libraries. Staff believe Central Library has the greatest potential for reaching out to and providing services these youth need.

- Youth Services staff began regular programming directed toward this age group. *Club 828* programs have included; web page design, collectibles, Mehndi (henna tattoos), and a mystery night.
- Central Library, in partnership with the SPL Foundation, opened the Schwab-Rosenhouse College Resource Center in November of 1999. This was a major expansion of the Library's service to college and vocational school-bound students, and includes on-line access to colleges and universities, counselor-assisted college entrance and/or scholarship applications, vocational selection and course selection software and classes for students and parents.

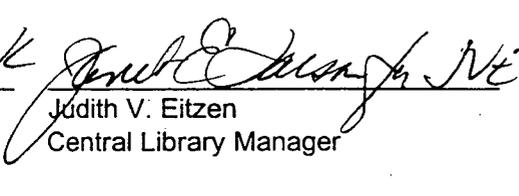
Staff continues to explore activities and programs to enhance services to older youth, such as a computer lab which would provide the following:

- Assistance with research and school projects using the Internet, electronic databases and other electronic resources.
- Basic computer literacy.
- Preparation of school reports on computers.
- A place for youngsters to meet.

Approved By:

Prepared By:


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