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The Elizabeth Jones Library:

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Whether you need to do some reference work for a school project, want to check out the latest Harry Potter book, surf the web or just find a quiet place to read, the Elizabeth Jones Library is here to meet your needs.

Conveniently located just blocks from downtown Grenada, the library provides services of all types with little or no charge.

Some of the services included at the library are free wireless internet, free public internet computers, staff-assisted access to a wealth of resource books, faxing, printing and scanning.

Books are still the number one reason people visit the library with other services falling closely behind, said Library Director Crystal Osborne.

"We check out more books monthly than we have internet users," Osborne said.

Cassettes, DVDs, books on tape and CD and new play-a-ways are conveniently accessible at the library. Play-a-ways are mp3 players for library patrons.

Because the library offers many free services, Osborne said more people are visiting, especially during these financially difficult times.

"We have readers now who have bought books for years but have given up the luxury to be able to afford something else."

The library is hoping to reach more people with their Facebook page and website. The website, www.elizabeth.lib.ms.us, gives viewers online research help, links to schools in Grenada, student aid links and much more. With the help of the

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Mississippi Library Commission, the Elizabeth Jones Library also gives access to Learn-A-Test on its website, which provides practice tests, exercises and skill building course for visitors who may need assistance landing a job, getting their GED or preparing for college.

Library patrons can also enjoy visits to the Mississippi History Room and Genealogy Room to learn about the history of Grenada and surrounding counties and also learn about Grenada's heritage through donated family tree books and other resources.

Special programs are always exciting for the library staff and visitors, including children. Several annual programs held at the library are Read Across America, held March 2 in celebration of Dr. Seuss' birthday, book talks and the Summer Reading Program, which Osborne said gets better every year.

"This year's theme is Make A Splash for (smaller children), and the teen theme is Make Waves At Your Library," Osborne said. "This year we have had numerous new children to participate. We contribute that somewhat to the economy, because families are looking for

things to take the kids to that are safe and free."

Additional programs have been added, Osborne said, such as health fairs and diabetic classes.

The library is thankful to have received several grants to obtain new books and make these programs possible including grants from First Book of Grenada, the Mississippi Arts Commission, and the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality.

The mission of the Elizabeth Jones Library is to provide a local site that holds the power of information and the discovery of ideas inside its walls; hence challenging each new reader, as well as nurturing any established readers, with our services and resources so that each may achieve their intellectual, spiritual, emotional, social, and physical potential through the joy of reading.

Osborne and the staff at the Elizabeth Jones Library are ready to serve anyone who needs it.

"Everyone is welcome at our library," Osborne said. "We want people to know we're here for them. We're doing our best to meet their expectations."

A group of children and adults enjoy one of the special events during the 2010 Summer Reading Program at the Elizabeth Jones Library. Money raised from the library's annual book sale is used to fund the program, which is attended by a large number of youngsters each year.



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