

Library Services and Programs

Expansion and Modernization



Doris Cochran Research Room

A good place to research your family's history is the Doris Cochran Research Room ("DCR" -pictured left) located downstairs at the Main Branch of the County Library. The room houses the non-circulating collection of the Merced County Genealogy Society and volunteers from that group are usually on hand to assist visitors 1 to 4 p.m. on Wednesdays and Saturdays, when the room is open to the general public. Online computers with access to genealogy sites such as Ancestry.com, photocopiers, a download printer and microfilm/microfiche readers are available for use by "roots" researchers. Census records, state and county histories, how-to books, cemetery listings, military records and various periodicals are part of the collection. To access the DCR on days when it is not staffed, patrons must show a valid Merced library card and a current membership card from the Merced County Genealogical Society (which meets the 3rd Saturday of most months in the Gracey Room).

Stoddard Room

Special collections (rare books) as well as California, San Joaquin Valley and local history volumes are the main focus of the reference materials shelved in the Stoddard Room (pictured right) located upstairs at the Main Branch of the County Library. In 1976, the County Board of Supervisors named the room in honor of former librarian Minette Lee Stoddard. The room once contained the family research collection of the Merced County Genealogy Society (now housed in the library's Doris Cochran Room in the library's basement). The Stoddard Room's collection, including items in delicate condition due to age, does not circulate. The room is usually locked, but library staffers will open the door at the request of those needing access to the unique volumes kept there.



Pictured below (L to R): Isabelle DeWitt and County Librarian June Young, 1959; Library Custodian Meeting, 1926; A boy and County Librarian Doris Cochran, 1965.

