

Although the Library is small with several individual rooms serving different needs it is welcoming to everyone – especially tourists. One service they provide is to offer soft-cover books on a rack that do not need to be checked out, but just taken for the pleasure of reading. The on-duty librarians told me that tourists (and this is a tourist town) love the idea of being able to borrow a book for a couple of days if they have forgotten to bring reading material with them. The librarians also said they have only “lost” a small number of books – library card holders always return the books, and many of the borrowed books are returned by hotels and B&Bs in the area when they are left behind!

The Children’s Corner and the Teen Room are smaller than many others – but provide everything the big city libraries offer. Low seating and carpeted play areas for the toddlers; computers for the teens. Oh – and board games in the teen room.

As with most Friends groups, funding comes from books sales. Seattle runs an annual books sale with thousands of books over a three-day period in September, raising thousands of dollars for their outreach programs. Port Townsend runs a tri-annual book sale, allowing them funds to provide summer reading programs for kids and adults; annual community read; and the Book Lover’s Café.

Both these Libraries again pointed out how important the Friends groups are to Library life; not just raising funds, but using those funds to provide stimulating events, materials and gathering spaces for their community. Sounds just like Atascadero! We hope you will continue to enjoy our Library.