

Spotlight On California genealogical research facilities

A series of articles about places to do research around the state

Corona Public Library

650 S. Main Street, Corona

(951) 736-2381

Hours: Mon. – Thur. 10 am to 9 pm., Fri. – Sat. 10 am to 5 pm. Closed on Sunday.

Website: <http://www.coronapubliclibrary.com>

by Leonard Enlow

The Corona Public Library, located at 6th and Main, sits right in the center of historic Grand Avenue, former track for the Corona Road Races! At its current location since 1971, the library has been a part of the community since 1900.

Over 189,000 visitors came through the library's doors in 2008 to enjoy a wide variety of programming, a collection of research and business databases, and to take advantage of the collection of 146,000 items to check out for home use or for onsite research.

To make sure we are reaching everyone we possibly can in the community, the library puts on a "Book-a-Palooza Book Fair & Festival" each year. Between 10:00 and 2:00 on Saturday, March 21st the street next to the Library was filled with vendors and visitors enjoying free entertainment and crafts. The parking lot was closed off for a Classic Car show and inside, people new to the Library took tours and met the staff.

As part of the event our genealogical society had a booth to exhibit our "Family Trees" and educate the public about genealogy. Above is a picture of our booth from last year.

The Corona Genealogical Society started in January of 2002 with 30 members and has grown to 65 members this year. The library has over 200 genealogy books and CDs for use by the public, as well as subscriptions to Ancestry.com and Heritage Quest for use at the computer terminals.

Our general meetings held the first Monday of each month have been averaging over 30 attendees. These meetings are held at the Corona Public Library's Community Room from 6 to 8:30 p.m. Networking and



The Corona Genealogical Society booth at the 2008 Book-A-Palooza. From left to right in the booth: Debbie Stuckert, Len Enlow and Ellery Wayman assisting an attendee.

business meetings are held from 6 to 7 p.m. with a feature speaker from 7 to 8:30 p.m.

We also hold free genealogy education classes and workshops on Friday afternoons from 3 to 4:30 p.m. This is an informal setting where beginning (and advanced) genealogists can come and ask any questions they may have on computers, software, or just, "How do I get Started?" There is a speaker every other Friday with the other Fridays as workshops where a dozen computers can be used by researchers to trace their family trees. These classes have been averaging 10 attendees over the past year.

Our Society has a Web site:

<http://www.coronagensoc.org/index.html>

where all of our events, meetings, classes, and newsletters are posted.