

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Kim Hixson, Interim Director
Yakima Valley Libraries
509-575-3401
khixson@yvl.org

Downtown Yakima Library Prepares for Remodel

Beginning Monday, January 9, 2012, visitors to the downtown Yakima Central Library will find a big change. The front door of the library will be closed. Visitors will be directed to a new entrance on "A" Street, to a smaller version of the library they are accustomed to.

"We are beginning a major remodeling project of the Yakima Central Library," explains Kim Hixson, Director of Yakima Valley Libraries. "During the remodel, customers will still be able to use the Library. Although the space is smaller, library materials and services will still be available."

The temporary move will make some changes necessary. "Our goal is to continue to provide library services at the Yakima Central Library, although they will be somewhat limited throughout this remodel. Due to space constraints, there will be fewer computer stations, prompting the library to reduce computer reservations to thirty-minute sessions, as opposed to the current one-hour sessions. In addition, there will be no public restrooms available during this time. We are temporarily eliminating Sunday hours at the downtown location. But the Summitview Library will continue to be open on Sundays and provide complete library services," said Hixson.

This remodeling project will focus on three major goals: moving the public restrooms to the main floor of the library; increasing the number of computer stations available; and the relocation of the public service desk to a central location. Additionally, specific areas have been set aside for children and teen users with expanded areas for periodicals and Spanish language materials.

"All of these planned changes will help insure that the Yakima Central Library can continue to offer the best services possible to the people we serve," Hixson states. "This project is financed from a

restricted fund established to provide for improvements to this building. Built in 1957, the library's renovation will bring new life to one of Yakima's oldest buildings. The project is expected to be completed by early summer of 2012. We look forward to providing library service at this location for many years to come. Thank you all in advance for your patience during this major remodel."

#####