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Tribal library gets boost from drive

BY GINA TENORIO

The Desert Sun

In the small Torres-Martinez Tribal Education and Library Center in Thermal, Luisa Armijo moves around heavy carts filled with donated books.

"Now we just need something to put them on," Armijo said.

It's a challenge she said she's glad to have.

The Palm Desert campus of the University of California, Riverside, delivered nearly 800 books to the library on Jan. 6.

Stuffed in the bags and boxes were children's titles, adult fiction, a gold-bound series from well-known poets and reference materials.

All were donated by the university thanks, in part, to a literacy network launched in May and to a little bit of luck, said Toni Lawrence, director of programs, outreach and marketing for the Palm Desert campus.

"We decided to have a book drive," Lawrence said.

At the start, they did not have a beneficiary, but then Lawrence remembered Armijo and the Torres-Martinez facility.

The two had recently met

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through the literacy network.

"They have this wonderful library," Lawrence said. "It seemed like an ideal place to send books."

They expected to collect a few dozen books during the drive.

"I guess we thought it would be something small," Lawrence said.

But a chance conversation changed the expected number.

The book drive was mentioned during a conversation between staffers at the Palm Desert campus and Riverside campus library.

Turns out there were hundreds of books collecting dust in the main campus library's basement, Lawrence said.

Currently, the facility needs nonfiction books for children and adults, donated magazine subscriptions and sturdy library book shelves where they can fit their newest additions, Armijo said.

"This will meet the needs of the community," Armijo said.



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Luisa M. Armijo, Torres-Martinez tribal education and library center director, and Maxine Resvaloso, Torres-Martinez tribal chairwoman, are pictured with a portion of the books they received from the University of California, Riverside, Palm Desert campus.