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Georgia Library Spotlight - Woodworth Consolidated Library

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GLA SPOTLIGHT

Woodworth Consolidated Library

Woodworth Consolidated Library (WCL) is an Army library that serves a consolidated mission to FMWR (Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation) and TRADOC (Training and Doctrine) Commands. WCL opened its doors in 1966 in honor of Captain Clarke N. Woodworth, Jr. who lost his life in battle in Vietnam.

In the 51 years since opening its doors to the Fort Gordon community, Woodworth Consolidated Library's mission has been to empower, motivate, and inspire its patrons through proactive delivery of real world information services for its military community's professional, academic, and social prosperity.

By serving a dual—consolidated—mission, WCL is afforded the opportunity to support the military and their families from birth to retirement. WCL's friendly, knowledgeable, and helpful team works hard to make the library experience enriching and worthwhile. Services and collections encompass a wealth of useful print, electronic, and human resources supporting education, self-development, and well-being.

The library offers a variety of fantastic services such as free test proctoring, a free notary, and free scanning. These services aid the service member and their families as they are transitioning to the local area, leaving the area,



or simply continuing the pursuit of their academic goals.

Programming is where WCL shines. Story Hour, Polar Express, Costume Parade, Healthy Snacks with Cookie Monster, and Spanish Scrabble are but a few of the library's offerings. WCL welcomes, on average, 10,000 patrons a month. This is huge for a small library. Due to

atmosphere, programming, and services offered, WCL patrons spend hours in the library.

Woodworth is open six days a week: Monday–Thursday, 0900–2000; Saturday–Sunday, 1000–1800. While the

library is closed to the public on Fridays, library staff are still busy inside serving patrons' library needs. This is when the library elves perform maintenance on the building, renovate the interior, process and shelve new materials, prepare kits for programs, and decorate for the coming holidays and displays.

In the past two years, nearly every inch of the facility has been reconfigured. First, the Children's Library was moved close to the circulation desk and remodeled in a child-friendly, inviting, playful Dr. Seuss theme and colors. The old Army surplus bookcases and furniture were replaced with primary-colored items purchased. Dr. Seuss was chosen as the room's theme because Theodor Seuss Geisel was an Army Signal soldier and Fort Gordon was formerly the Signal Center.

Next, the seldom-used conference room was turned into the Proctoring Center. Test proctoring and digital or computer resource trainings occur by appointment and are free of charge to the patron. Then, the 28-foot-long 1970s heavy wood reference desk that “welcomed” everyone into the facility was replaced by a jazzy hipster lounge. This, along with a water feature and contemporary music playing throughout the building, welcomes weary military travelers.

Other projects such as creating a café, a vertical garden, and study nooks throughout the stacks round out WCL’s “community enrichment center” mindset. WCL wants the soldiers and their families to relax, breathe a sigh of relief, feel welcomed, and stay a while from the moment they walk through the doors. This commitment to service is what helped WCL win the Federal Library of the Year in 2011. Walk through the rabbit hole and enter the fun Army madness!