Have you checked out our library lately?

The Lane Horticulture Library is a treasure of information on the plants, insects, birds and other creatures that make the Arboretum their home. There are loads of books about the plant life of South Africa, Australia, New Zealand and California as well as collections about biogeography, horticulture and floristics. The library doesn’t lend books but the collection is available for anyone to browse. Plan to stop by when you next visit the Arb.

Built in 1994, the Jean and Bill Lane Library is located in the Horticulture II building. The Lanes, founders of Sunset Magazine, donated funds for the library’s construction. Today, the library offers comfy chairs and worktables, and a computer for investigating the library catalog [http://www.library.ucscarboretum.org/openbiblio/opac/index.php ]. There’s also a multimedia setup with a large screen monitor with laptop HDMI and wireless connection capabilities, and a DVD, CD and Blu-Ray player.

Our library is not simply a library. It’s a welcome booth, an information kiosk, a reading room, a hangout, and sometimes a classroom or studio. Recent events hosted at the library included a series of field sketching workshops, photography tutorials and photoshop classes. We’ve added a children’s corner under our reference book collection. Future plans include special story times for children.

Library hours vary but, with enough volunteers (more about that in a minute), we hope to staff it five days a week for at least three hours a day. We maintain a calendar [http://www.library.ucscarboretum.org/calendar/] with open hours. The schedule is updated frequently.

Want to learn more about the library? Consider becoming a Library Volunteer. It’s a fun job. Spend your time browsing our wonderful collection while welcoming library and garden visitors. Library shifts are 10am-1pm or 1pm-4pm. See the volunteer description [https://arboretum.ucsc.edu/support/volunteer/index.html ] for more information.

Article written by June Langhoff, Library Volunteer, October 2019.