

Photo by Airman 1st Class Martha Whipple

Andrenise Faust chooses a book from the wide variety of over 30,000 titles available at the base library.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Vanessa LaBoy

Marie Bernal looks over the books on tape selection.

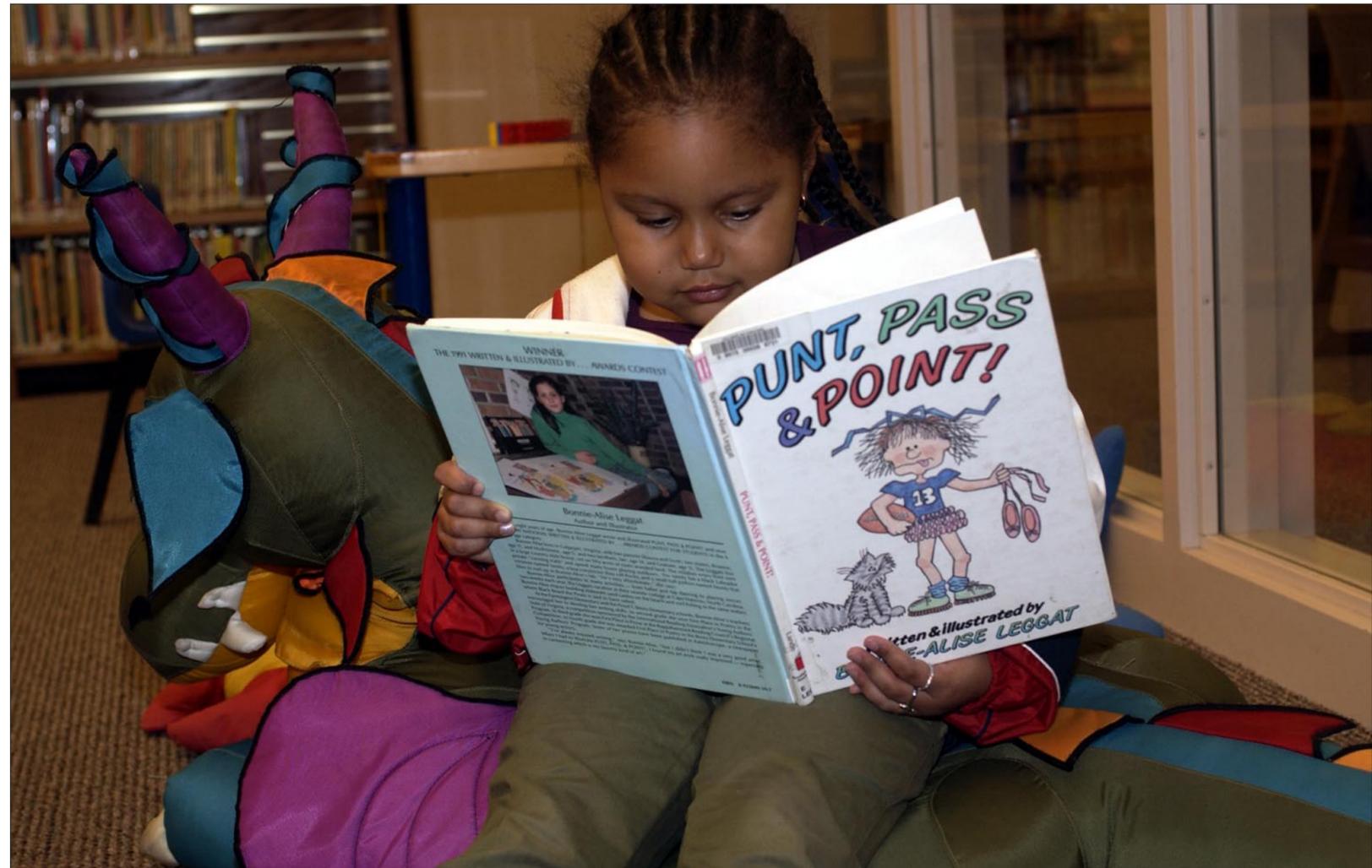


Photo by Airman 1st Class Martha Whipple

Brianna Rodriquez indulges in her favorite book in the children's area of the base library.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Martha Whipple

Juliet Buie looks through the base library's movie selection of over 4,000 titles.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Vanessa LaBoy

Airman 1st Class Vonshwa McClain, 49th Logistics Readiness Squadron (left) and Staff Sgt. Patricia Phillips, 49th Mission Support Squadron, read over algebra CLEP material.

Library provides food for thought

by Airman 1st Class Martha Whipple
49th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Wall-to-wall books are the way of the past for most libraries. Like the rest of the world, Holloman's library is moving into the millennium and offering fast-paced computerized services.

Most people remember using the "antique" card catalog by looking up the name of the book in alphabetical order from about a billion index cards. Today, just type a few keys on the on-line catalog, click here and there and SHAZAAM – the computer practically produces a map directly to the book.

"Times have changed and so has Holloman's library," said Cora Ahrens, base library director. "We are continually looking for innovative programs and new services to enhance our library and make it a user-friendly environment for practically every need."

The base library, run by contract with Tech Systems, Inc., is available to active duty, retirees, civilians and family members. The library has a threefold mission to fulfill, which includes mission support, education – both professional military and voluntary – and quality of life.

"Our mission support function will see the most changes in the coming months," said Ahrens. "We will no longer be purchasing print copies of materials for offices when there is a full text format available on-line. With electronic resources, one purchase can be used by multiple individuals at any Internet terminal worldwide. It is more price effective to purchase electronic resources for print media such as Air Force Times."

The education and mission function of the library is supported by electronic databases. The library has access to 12 research databases and an electronic book collection of over 5,000 titles. All electronic resources are available around the clock. To access these databases, people need to visit the library to obtain the passwords. The web address for the database is <http://library.holloman.accqolnet.org>.

For those who enjoy books cover to cover, the library has more than 30,000 books about everything under the sun. The children's collection offers more than 3,000 books and a small play and reading area.

For those who don't have time to cuddle in their favorite chair with a cup of mocha, there is an alternative: books on cassette and compact disc. With a diverse collection, ranging from history and mystery to learning and loving, this library

strives to accommodate a wide variety of favorite books.

The library doesn't only attract book lovers, magazine readers and newspaper critics, but it's also a magnet for computer users. For the people who like the World Wide Web and surfing the net, the library feeds their need with 22 workstations with Internet access.

For people who aren't bookworms or Internet junkies, the library also offers music and movies. From the latest releases to timeless classics, Team Holloman members can rent movies and DVDs from the collection of 4,000.

"The library here is well-designed and well-equipped to meet the needs of a diverse population," Ahrens said. "We have something for everyone."

The hours of operation are 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., Monday to Thursday; 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Friday; noon to 6 p.m., Saturday and Sunday.

In our fast-paced world of technology and automation, it seems there are few places to escape for some peace and quiet. The base library can provide that stress relief, while maintaining cutting-edge services in the 21st century. To find out more, stop by the library or call 572-3939. The best part is there are no fees to join the library, no late fees and no charge for interlibrary loans.