More than 80 percent of California school libraries offer Internet access to their students, according to the state Department of Education. But Internet access doesn’t decrease the need for books. Just ask the students in the Hueneme Elementary School District. Each day of the school year, they can sit in their campus library and read a book because of the late Marie Theresa “Tessie” Bach.

Once a bookkeeper for the school district and later a librarian, Tessie established the first library in the district. She retired after 30 years of service leaving 11 campuses with libraries.

Tessie and her contractor husband, George Bach, moved to Port Hueneme in 1932. The pair never had children and lived frugally. George passed away in 1993.

When Tessie died in 1998 at 87, she left $350,000 to fund the George and Marie Theresa “Tessie” Bach Charitable Endowment Fund for the Libraries of the Hueneme School District.

Most years, the $20,000 or so the district realizes from the fund pays for books. It also has provided money to enlarge one school’s library and replace the district’s antiquated system for tracking books, said Debra Reeves, the school district’s chief business officer.

“Tessie’s fund has made a huge difference for our children,” Reeves said.