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Seminole County Public Library System

Florida Library History Project

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Florida Library History Project

Seminole County Public Library System

- 1974 STRAW BALLOT HELD in which voters approved the establishment of countywide public library service as a function of county government. The League of Women Voters spearheaded this effort.
- 1975 COUNTYWIDE LIBRARY SERVICE INITIATED in Seminole County through contract with Orlando Public Library to operate branches in Casselberry and Sanford and to provide bookmobile service. Numerous other services were available through Orlando Public.
- 1978 CREATION OF THE SEMINOLE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM and termination of the Seminole County contract with Orlando. Casselberry Branch was expanded, a Bookmobile program, Administrative unit and Technical Support unit were established.
- 1979-80 APPOINTMENT OF SEVEN MEMBER LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD to provide citizen input into library development.
- ESTABLISHMENT OF FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY as a non-profit organization to provide financial and other support to the library system.
- LIBRARY ORGANIZATIONAL PERIOD: structure, policies and procedures, and services developed.
- 1981 PREPARATION OF A LONG RANGE PLAN FOR LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT by HBW & Associates, Library Consultants, Dallas, Texas, which has been used as the basis for continued library development.
- APPOINTMENT OF A CITIZEN REFERENDUM STUDY COMMITTEE to make recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners regarding implementation of the Long Range Plan. Committee recommended citizens be given the opportunity to vote on the issue of library expansion.

- 1982 REFERENDUM HELD in which voters approved expansion of the Public Library System by issuance of \$7,000,000 in Library Bonds.
SENIORS PLUS BOOKS-BY-MAIL PROGRAM INITIATED to serve citizens over 65, and those unable to travel to branch libraries. Federal Funding provided through Library Services and Construction Act (LSCA).
- 1983 PHASE I OF THE LIBRARY AUTOMATION PROJECT INITIATED via contract with SOLINET/OCLC (Southeastern Library Network/On-line Computer Library Consortium) for cataloging and interlibrary loan of materials. Federal funding provided through Library Services and Construction Act (LSCA).
SANFORD LIBRARY ON FIRST STREET RENOVATED with State Construction Grant.
- 1984-85 SALE OF \$7 MILLION DOLLARS IN LIBRARY BONDS
LIBRARY STAFF AND LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD COORDINATED preparation of building programs, land acquisition, general planning for the construction project.
RETROSPECTIVE CONVERSION OF LIBRARY COLLECTION COMPLETE by library staff (inhouse) as part of Phase 11, Library Automation Project. Federal Funding provided through Library Services and Construction Act (LSCA).
- 1986-87 CONSTRUCTION OF FIVE (5) NEW LIBRARY FACILITIES and renovation of one (1) existing facility in Sanford. Revised 10/13/93
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS APPROVAL OF LIBRARY Schedule including staff I III; levels, personnel costs, operating and capital budgets for new library facilities.
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS VOTED TO TERMINATE VIDEOCASSETTE PROGRAM upon opening of new libraries.

1987-88 BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ADOPTED STANDARD OF ONE (1) BOOK PER CAPITA in the Capital Improvements Element of the Comprehensive Plan. Standard excludes (the 30,000+ population of Altamonte Springs. Library element is optional, not mandatory.

RECRUITED, HIRED AND TRAINED PERSONNEL for Five (5) New Library Facilities which opened between December, 1987 and May, 1988. All libraries are open for service to the public 58 hours per week.

PHASE 11 OF THE LIBRARY AUTOMATION PROJECT COMPLETED when the installation of the Library's Computer System for tracking materials in circulation and patron registration became operational in all libraries.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS VOTES AGAINST ESTABLISHMENT OF A LIBRARY IMPACT FEE to fund library growth.

1989 PHASE III OF THE LIBRARY AUTOMATION PROJECT INITIATED with addition of Materials Purchasing module. (The On-line Catalogs for public use are planned for implementation in FY 92/93 pending availability of funding.)

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS REJECTS LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD REQUEST for re-establishment of a Videocassette Service based on continued public demand.

1990 SEMINOLE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM RECEIVES A DESIGNATION through Congressman Bill McCollum as a Federal Depository for selected U.S. Government Documents. Documents Room opened at the Central Branch Library in March, 1990.

LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD RECOMMENDS AN INCREASE OF COMPREHENSIVE MANAGEMENT PLAN standard to 1.5 books per capita. Standard to be achieved over a 10 year period (1991-2000). Library Advisory Board also recommends that the Board of County Commissioners reconsider establishment of a Library Impact Fee to help fund this increase.

- 1991 BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS APPROVE LIBRARY IMPACT FEE of \$54.00 per residential dwelling unit to be effective June 1, 1991.
- LIBRARY ELEMENT OF THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN approved by the Board of County Commissioners. Level of Service of one book per capita retained.
- 1992 LIBRARY/DAY CARE CONNECTION program implemented with a Library Services and Construction Act (LSCA) grant award of \$30,000.
- 1993 SECOND YEAR OF LIBRARY/DAY CARE CONNECTION program funded With \$43,411 LSCA federal grant.
- PHASE III OF THE LIBRARY AUTOMATION PROJECT COMPLETED With the installation of (the Public Access Catalog (PAC) in June. Future improvements to PAC are planned to include on-line magazine indexes and access to other library catalogs.
- INITIATE DEVELOPMENT OF COMMUNITY ANALYSIS and Collection Development Plan.
- 1994 NACO LIBRARY ACHIEVEMENT AWARD (National Association of Counties) given to Seminole County for the Library/Day Dare Connection program.
- LIBRARY HOURS INCREASED from 58 to 64 per week due to efficiency gains from automation program.
- ELECTRONIC NOTIFICATION SYSTEM (ENS) for overdue and reserved materials initiated. ENS provides \$25,000 annual savings.
- MIDWAY OUTREACH program initiated to provide training to volunteers who will work with children in the community on early reading skill development.
- 1995 COMMUNITY RESOURCES INFORMATION added to the Library Computer System. Information on clubs and organizations, library programs and other County activities available on-line at all library terminals. Program funded through a gift from the Friends of the Library.

MAGAZINE AND NEWSPAPER INDEXES AND INVENTORY added to the Library Computer System. Reader's Guide to Periodical Literature and a complete inventory of the library system's periodical holdings available on-line at all library terminals. Project was funded with a \$70,000 federal grant from the Library Services and Construction Act (LSCA) grant.

ORLANDO SENTINEL CD ROM database installed for use at the Central Branch Library. A multimedia searchable database going back 11 years available to the public at a computer workstation. Program funded by a gift from the Friends of the Library.

RECEIPT PRINTERS AND SOFTWARE INSTALLED at all circulation terminals to provide users with printed receipt of materials checked out. Project funded through a gift from the Friends of the Library.

SUNDAY HOURS BEGIN in April at all five library branches.

SPANISH LANGUAGE COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT GRANT AWARDED to Library. Federal funding provided to purchase adult and children's Spanish language books.

1996 SEMINOLE COUNTY HOMEPAGE CREATED on World Wide Web.

LIMITED INTERNET ACCESS PROJECT INITIATED, giving professional staff access to references resources on the Internet. Project done in cooperation with Central Florida Library Cooperative. Internet Access allowed all five libraries access to reference and government publications previously only available at the Government Documents Room in Central Branch. As a result, the division was able to close the Gov't. Documents Room in October, 1995 and reorganize operations at a savings of \$40,551. Capital equipment funded through a gift from the Friends of the Library. Capital equipment funded through a gift from the Friends of the Library.

BCC APPROVED SEMINOLE ON LINE (SOL) PROJECT to provide full Internet access to citizens at all county library terminals. Capital equipment partially funded through a gift from the Friends of the Library, as well as a federal Library Services and Construction Act (LSCA) grant.

1997 LIBRARY STRATEGIC PLAN 1996-2000 presented to the Board of County Commissioners (BCC). The BCC approved a graduated increase in the collection size standard from 1.0 to 1.5 books per capita, to be accomplished by 2005.

SEMINOLE ON LINE (SOL) PROJECT installed and operational 12/97.

1998 BCC approved renaming the Central Branch Library the "Jean Rhein Central Branch Library" to recognize the founding director of the library system, who retired in December 1997. Building re-dedicated March 5, 1998.