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# Pinellas Park Public Library

Florida Library History Project

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# **Florida Library History Project**

## **Pinellas Park Public Library**

The City of Pinellas Park was incorporated in 1915. A local volunteer organization known as the Sunshine Society provided city residents with their first library service in the 1920s. After nearly twenty years, there was a short period during WWII when the community was without a library before it was again organized in 1948, by volunteers who organized themselves into the Pinellas Park Public Library Association.

The library first was housed in an old pump house owned by the City Water Department. For a brief time after that it was located in a room of the former City Hall, before being moved to a building on Park Boulevard which is now the home of the Pinellas Park Arts Society. In 1959, the library became an official department of the City of Pinellas Park. With the help of a Federal Grant, a brand new facility was built in the present location in 1969.

In 1984, the structure was enlarged to create the current library building. A meeting room was added later that same year. Since 1984, the library has continued to grow, albeit within the confines of the same building. As library use has increased, the staff and collection have grown, new media and technologies have been made available and services have been expanded to meet demand. In its present structure, the library houses more than 90,000 books, videos and audio tapes, plus nearly 300 magazine titles, a dozen newspapers and other material. The library now has more than 25,000 registered borrowers.. Each day, more than 800 people visit the library, checking out nearly 1,000 items, and asking more than 200 reference questions of the library's professional staff. In the same average day, the staff fields another 100 questions coming in by phone.