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Tampa Bay Library Consortium

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Florida Library History Project

Tampa Bay Library Consortium

About the Tampa Bay Library Consortium

Who We Are

The Tampa Bay Library Consortium, Inc. (TBLC) is one of six nonprofit multi-type library cooperatives in Florida. It leads and encourages collaboration, resource sharing, staff development, and innovations to ensure that the people of west central Florida receive excellent, up-to-date library services and have access to the world of information.

In 1999 TBLC's membership includes 92 libraries -- 6 community colleges, 3 State University System libraries, 28 private academic colleges and universities, 4 public school systems, 38 public, 14 special and 1 associate member library. Member libraries pay dues and participate in the governance of the Consortium. Programs and services are planned based upon input from member libraries. Staff members serve on committees and participate in special interest groups.

Member libraries serve over 3.8 million Floridians (approximately 30% of Florida's total population) in 12 Florida counties. The counties served are: Citrus, DeSoto, Hardee, Hernando, Highlands, Hillsborough, Manatee, Okeechobee, Pasco, Pinellas, Polk and Sarasota.

Established in 1979, TBLC has a long history of enabling resource sharing in the Tampa Bay area.

What We Do

TBLC facilitates interlibrary loan and resources sharing for member libraries, it provides quality continuing education and staff development programs and enables member libraries to participate in projects using cutting edge technologies.

Follow the links provided on the master list of TBLC's Programs and Services to

learn more about our offerings.

Interlibrary loan and resource sharing are supported by a statewide ground delivery service that TBLC serves as the agent for. Continuing education and staff development opportunities are offered at the computer lab in our headquarters or at remote sites using our portable laptop lab. We operate SUNLINE, a shared library automation system for ten of our member libraries. The catalog is web accessible via SunCat. AlleyCat, a component of the Anywhere-Anytime Library, is a regional virtual library catalog. The catalogs of all participating libraries can be explored in one search, from anywhere on the Internet at any time. Registered borrowers can request to borrow materials from any participant and have them delivered to their local library.

TBLC is supported by funding from member dues and service fees, foundations, corporate sponsors, special federal library funding and the State Library of Florida's cooperative grants program.

Directions for the 21st Century, TBLC's Strategic Plan for 2000-2002, provides information about our future plans. You can read the complete plan or the nutshell version.

How We're Organized

The Consortium is governed by an elected 9-member Board of Directors and a 4-member Executive Committee. Barbe Bonjour, director of the Pasco County Library System, is the President in 2001.

The Bylaws of the Tampa Bay Library Consortium and our Articles of Incorporation are available online.

TBLC is administered by an executive director and has a full-time staff at the headquarters office.