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## Pasco County Library System

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# Florida Library History Project

## Pasco County Library System

The Pasco County Library System was established by County Ordinance in 1980. Libraries in Hudson, Holiday and Land O'Lakes were incorporated into the system. The Hugh Embry Library in Dade City joined the County System on a lease agreement in 1981.

In November, 1986, the voters of Pasco County approved a \$10 million bond referendum to improve public library services county wide. What was proposed was the replacement of two facilities (Hudson and Land O'Lakes); the building of two facilities in unserved areas (Regency Park and South Holiday); and a renovation/addition to the Hugh Embry Library in Dade City.

Two additional facilities were built with non-referendum funding. Centennial Park was built with a Library Services and Construction Act Grant (LSCA) and local funds. The New River Library was built with Community Development Block Grant funds (CDBG) and local funding.

## LIBRARY BRANCHES

The **Hudson Regional Library** evolved from humble roots. Originally comprised of a sparse handful of dedicated volunteers in 1975, the Hudson Library was first housed in a small motel room. After the Friends of the Hudson Library raised sufficient funds, it was moved to a flood-prone building on Old Dixie Highway.

After the passage of the building referendum, a new Hudson Library was built at 8012 Library Road in Hudson. The 32,640 square foot building, with monumental entry columns and a 35-foot high clerestory, has a shelving capacity of 120,000 volumes and serves as the headquarters of the Pasco County Library System. The new Hudson Library opened its doors to the public on April 22, 1990.

The **Land O'Lakes Library** opened in a tiny section of a county building on Highway 41. As it grew, it moved to a larger facility. In 1980, it officially became part of the County-Wide Library System, and in 1988, the branch moved into a

Land O'Lakes Plaza storefront.

With the bond money, a new Land O'Lakes Branch Library was built at 2818 Collier Parkway in Land O'Lakes and opened to the public on December 12, 1991.

The **Holiday Library** opened as a volunteer library in 1978 and became a member of the Library System in 1980. The storefront operation was replaced with a LSCA grant-funded structure in 1987. Pasco County changed the name of the Holiday Branch Library to Centennial Park Library because it was the only building built by the County in the year of its centennial. The Centennial Park Branch Library was dedicated on September 20, 1987. It is located at 5740 Moog Road in Holiday.

The **Hugh Embry Library** was founded in 1904 by Mr. Hugh Embry. In the 1950's, the library became city property; in 1962, after the City donated the land for the library, the Friends of the Hugh Embry Library and Dade City combined funds for a new building. The Hugh Embry Library became part of the County System in 1981.

The 1986 bond money provided for renovation and expansion of the Hugh Embry Branch in 1991. Its available space was doubled and a meeting room was added for public use. It is located at 14215 Fourth Street in Dade City.

The **Regency Park Library** was a new library made possible by the passage of the referendum. It opened to the public on October 26, 1990, at 9701 Little Road in New Port Richey.

The **New River Library** was built with Community Development Block Grant funds and general fund allocations. The library opened to the public on October 31, 1991, at 34043 State Road 54 in Zephyrhills.

The **South Holiday Library** was built with the 1986 bond money and \$400,000 of LSCA grant funds. The library opened its doors to the public on March 24, 1992, at 4649 Mile Stretch Drive in Holiday.

The South Holiday Library was originally intended to be a neighborhood facility specializing only in popular reading materials; however, a rapidly-growing

community brought a demand for information services. South Holiday Library is now a small, full-service library.

A Support Services Unit, housing collection development, cataloging, processing, automation and delivery functions, is in a separate county-owned building at 5418 Sunset Road in New Port Richey.