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March 2022

Nevin C. Meinhardt Memorial Library

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Florida Library History Project

Nevin C. Meinhardt Memorial Library

The Nevin C. Meinhardt Memorial Library is a relatively new library in the south Florida area. The following gives a synopsis of its brief history:

1985 - 1993	The library is located in the main building of The Art Institute of Fort Lauderdale at 1799 Southeast 17th Street. At that time, the library encompasses a total area of approximately 1,500 square feet, including two public rooms and one office/storage room for staff.
1989	Creation of the library's first development plan for FY 1991-1993.
1990	Establishment of the library committee.
1993	The library moves to its present location at 1650 Southeast 17th Street. The collection includes approximately 6,000 volumes, 178 periodical titles, and more than 700 videos.
1994	The collection now includes more than 11,300 volumes. The library becomes an Associate Member of the SEFLIN consortium. The Columbia Library System is installed. Establishment of access to on-line resources (DIALOG and the Internet). Implementation of Five-Year Development Plan. Addition of second MLS to staff. The library is open 56 hours per week. Gate counts range from 230 - 350 patrons per day.
1995	Third MLS added to staff. Library hours expand to 68.5 hours per week.
1996	Library joins SOLINET. This allows access to the OCLC database for interlibrary loan and cataloging.

1997	Completion of library expansion project. The library encompasses 5,015 square feet and contains over 15,000 volumes, 263 periodical titles, and over 1,000 videos. Two major slide collections, Architecture, Interiors and Furniture and History of Costume are added to the collection. Library hours are expanded to 73.5 hours per week in April and then to 82.75 hours per week in July. Gate counts are now averaging close to 650 per day and a record high for one day of 813 is set during the fall quarter. Creation of library Web page on SEFLIN server.
1998	Conversion of library's catalog to Athena. Addition of 4 terminals with direct access to the Internet. Library's monograph collection grows to over 18,000 volumes. Creation of newsletter, Bibliotech. Institution of academic discussion series.

Who Was Nevin C. Meinhardt?

Nevin C. Meinhardt was the Director of the Advertising Design program at The Art Institute of Fort Lauderdale beginning in 1981. He received his B.S. from Edinboro University of Pennsylvania and taught at several schools including the Carnegie Institute. Loved by faculty and students alike, this man was a driving force at The Art Institute of Fort Lauderdale. He was a mentor, counselor, and friend, inspiring all who knew him. He held the belief that with hard work and lifelong learning, everyone could fulfill their dreams. His personal values inspired the naming of the school's library in his memory.