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South Florida Community College

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Florida Library History Project

South Florida Community College

The South Florida Community College District covers the counties of DeSoto, Hardee, and Highlands. This is a geographic area of 2,400 square miles. In 1966, the SFCC library began as a small collection of books located in the corner of a remodeled supermarket on Main Street in Avon Park, Florida. The first Library Director (1966-1984) was Lelia Sebring. She was a scion of the family that founded the town of Sebring in Highlands County. In 1969, the 228-acre campus opened on a site between two lakes. The library occupied the second floor of the current Adult and Community Education Building. From its earliest day, it was hoped that the library could offer goods and services on a par with other educational facilities in the state.

Madison Mosely, Library Director (1984-1990), was responsible for planning and expanding the new facilities. In 1989, the library was housed in the same building with the media center and learning laboratory to be known as the Learning Resource Center (LRC). The library occupies the second floor of the building. Its floor to ceiling windows offer a sweeping panorama of the lakes and surrounding orange groves. In addition to being a gathering place for students, the new facility offers ample study areas and conference rooms, space for more than 50,000 books and media, wiring for a number of computer connections, and a full television studio.

Luella Teuton followed as the Library Director (1990-1996). She put the traditional card catalog "to rest." It was realized that in order to offer excellence in goods and services, the library would have to become part of the College Center for Library Automation (CCLA) which serves the network of 28 Florida community colleges.

Jon F. Noland joined the SFCC staff as Library Director in 1996. He has been instrumental in expanding library services in the SFCC Satellite Centers in Arcadia, Lake Placid, and Wauchula. In addition, Lena Phelps was hired to become the Evening/Center Librarian. She is the first SFCC alumna and "professional librarian" to be a LRC employee. Both Noland and Phelps actively

serve as members on CCLA statewide committees.

Nowadays, the emphasis is placed on ensuring that the library's collection firmly supports the curriculum of this large district. Last year, SFCC registered 17,000 individuals for campus activities. Moreover, there is a sincere desire by library patrons to have access to world-wide knowledge. Thanks to CCLA not only is this possible, but library users now have access to more than 1,000 journals in FULL TEXT and millions of individual bibliographic sources ----not bad for a library that began in the corner of a remodeled supermarket.