

January 1998

Martin County Library System

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Recommended Citation

"Martin County Library System" (1998). *Florida Library History Project*. 40.
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Florida Library History Project

Martin County Library System

- 1903 Woman's Club Charter indicates formation of Library as first of three priorities.
- 1916 Woman's Club of Stuart purchased the Christian Endeavor Hall in Stuart for Library and meeting place.
CEH destroyed by hurricane. Woman's Club deed property to City of
- 1933 Stuart and City applies to Federal WPA program to rebuild Library. When completed, City returned property to Woman's Club.
- 1934 WPA building on Albany Avenue completed as a public Library for Stuart.
- 1955 Ocean Boulevard land for Library donated by Willard Kiplinger.
- 1956 Library Association (Friends of the Stuart Library) founded.
- 1957 Opened the Martin County Public Library on Ocean Boulevard. W. Kiplinger donated remaining 2 lots on block to Woman's Club.
- 1962 Addition to Stuart Library brought total to 6,500 SF.
- 1968 Old bookmobile retired.
- 1976 Addition to Stuart Library brought total to present 18,270 SF.
- 6/82 Friends of the Hobe Sound library founded.
- 1/85 Opened Hobe Sound Branch in renovated rental quarters. 3,800 SF.
- 1985 New bookmobile donated by the Library Association.
- 1985 Trailer placed in Indiantown (Opened 20 hrs./wk.).
- 10/86 Friends of the Jensen Beach Library founded.
- 11/88 Friends of the Indiantown Library founded.
- 6/89 Opened Jensen Beach Branch in renovated, (Post Office) rental quarters. 4,700 SF (4,264 sf net).
- 10/89 Friends of the Palm City Library founded.
- 5/91 Opened new Indiantown Branch. 5,009 SF.
- 10/91 Selected Library operations.
- 10/91 Began operating County Law Library.

- 12/91 Purchased 5 acres on US Hwy. 1 for permanent Hobe Sound Branch.
Approximately 5 acres, to be shared with District.
- 2/92 Chautauqua South programming established as public-private collaborative
division of library system.
- 10/92 County Law Library became official branch (ordinance) and State statute.
- 12/92 Community Answers (information collaborative) established, precursor to
MCNET.
- 10/93 Began dial access into library's on-line (SIRSI) catalog for general public.
- 10/94 Migrate main library software to County SUN platform.
- 12/94 Stuart/main library connected to county network via fiber-optics.
- 6/95 Open Palm City Branch, 10,000 SF.
- 3/96 Referendum for 1% for one year sales surtax passed by referendum to help
fund 5 year Library capital expansion program.
- 12/96 Refurbished bookmobile into Story Express, outreach to children and
daycare workers.
- 5/97 Library Netscape system begun.
- 7/97 Began construction, new Stuart main library (39,000 SF).
- 8/97 Law Library electronic services begun.
- 1997 Hobe Sound Branch working drawings in progress (10,500 SF).
- IN PLANNING STAGES:** Systemwide CD-ROM network - Prolepsis. Remote
access to Law Library. Mid-County Library, Salerno Road site, 15,000 SF.
Jensen Beach Library, 10,000 SF.
Indiantown Branch Library addition, 10,000 SF.