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Union County Public Library

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Florida Library History Project

Union County Public Library

In 1986, a group of concerned citizens, seeing the need for a public library, started a volunteer-run library with donated books and materials in one room of the local Community Center.

Two years later a .5 mill ad valorem tax was passed by the voters of the County to fund a public library. This dedicated source of revenue allowed the County library to hire a professional director and qualify for State Aid to Libraries. A director was hired and charged with renovating a small (1400 sq. ft.) bank building and providing library services.

On March 1, 1990 the new library opened to the public. Response from the community was positive. Since then, the library has added an ambitious schedule of children's programming, service to the county jail, and provides outreach services by means of a Mailbox Books programs. In 1996 the library joined the New River Public Library Cooperative and receives support services in the areas of networking, Internet connections, automation, children's programming, and continuing education.

A much needed expansion (an additional 1900 sq. ft.) was completed in August 1997. The newly renovated and expanded space has additional room for stacks, seating and a meeting/programming room.

The library has seen great growth and community pride In the eight years that it has been open to the public. It is rewarding to see the progress from no library service in the county, to the busy and vital library that we have today.

-- Prepared January 1998 by Virginia K. Bird Director 1989-1997