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Collier County Public Library

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Florida Library History Project

Collier County Public Library

Friends of the Collier County Public Library started the Collier County Free Public Library in a room of the Women's Club in 1957. In 1961, a campaign was started to raise money to build a new facility to serve as the Headquarters of the new Collier County Public Library. Dr. and Mrs. Ferdinand C. Lee obtained the square block from 6th to 7th Street on the south side of Central Avenue and generously deeded it to the Friends of the Library. The new building was dedicated in 1964, built with funds (over \$120,000) provided by the Friends of the Library. In 1976, an addition nearly doubled the size of the Library when a Reference room and a Children's room were added. This building was partially razed and incorporated into the new building in 1991. The new expanded facility in existence today opened in February 1992.

The book collection of the Collier County Public Library and branches has grown from 10,000 volumes in 1961 to 281,954 volumes as of September 1997. Total materials circulated during the 1997 fiscal year at Headquarters, Marco Island, Golden Gate, Immokalee, Vanderbilt Beach, East Naples, and Everglades City branch libraries were 1,874,128. The seventh branch located in Golden Gate Estates opened in January 1995.

The Headquarters Library provides outstanding services for Collier County patrons. Books, videos, CD Roms, books on cassette tape, large-print books, and compact discs are provided for card holders.

The Collier County Public Library owes its existence to the Friends of the Collier County Public Library. The Friends of the Collier County Public Library assist and support the library in many special projects.