

## Florida Library Landscape

There are many different types of libraries in Florida that are eligible for LSTA funding.

### **Public Libraries**

Public library service in Florida is not mandated by state law but is provided throughout the state by local governments using a variety of arrangements for organization, governance and funding.

*Single-county consolidated* library systems and *single-county cooperative* library systems are made up of city and/or county member libraries located within a single county.

- Consolidated systems usually have a headquarters or main library and may also have branches that serve the entire county. The county library director supervises staff at all locations. The library systems in Citrus, Columbia, Leon and Marion counties are examples of this type of system.
- Cooperative library systems are directed by a cooperative coordinator who may be employed by the cooperative's governing board (e.g., the libraries in Okaloosa, Pinellas and Polk counties), by the county (e.g., Lake) or by a member library (e.g., in Hendry and Hillsborough counties). Each member library is administered by its own library director rather than by a single centralized director.

*Multicounty consolidated* and *multicounty cooperative* library systems are made up of libraries located in two or more counties that provide services to their combined residents.

- A centralized library director supervises all the staff in multicounty consolidated systems; outlets are typically considered branches of the consolidated system. Suwannee River Regional is an example of a multicounty consolidated system.
- A multicounty cooperative director usually coordinates cooperative-wide services and programs while county library directors manage county-specific operations. Outlets are considered member libraries, and each county library is governed by its respective county commission. The cooperative may have its own separate governing board. Wilderness Coast Public Libraries and the Panhandle Public Library Cooperative are examples of multicounty cooperative systems.

Some incorporated municipalities (cities, towns, villages) choose to operate independent libraries that are separate from their county systems. Examples of these *independent municipal* libraries include Boynton Beach, Hialeah and Maitland.

### **Academic Libraries**

*Public academic libraries* include libraries in the State University System of Florida and the Florida College System. Examples of public academic libraries are the libraries at Florida State University, Florida Gulf Coast University, Gulf Coast State College and Tallahassee Community College.

Florida is also home to many fully accredited private universities and colleges, which in turn are home to *private academic libraries*. The libraries at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Flagler College, Everglades University and Trinity College are examples of private academic libraries.

### **School Media Centers – Public Elementary, Secondary and Charter Schools**

The Florida Department of Education administers public primary and secondary schools, including their media centers. School districts are organized within county boundaries. Florida has 67 school districts – one for each county. All are separate from county government. School districts tax property within their jurisdictions to support their budgets. Each school district has an elected school board that sets policies, goals and the budget and approves expenditures.

The media centers at charter schools, which are tuition-free public schools, are also eligible for funding.

### **Special Libraries**

Special libraries include law, news, corporate and medical libraries and information resource centers at publicly supported government agencies, museums, hospitals, associations and other organizations with specialized information needs.

### **Multitype Library Cooperatives**

There are five multitype library cooperatives (MLCs) in Florida, each corresponding to a geographical region: Northeast Florida Library Information Network (NEFLIN), Panhandle Library Access Network (PLAN), Southeast Florida Library Information Network (SEFLIN), Southwest Florida Library Network (SWFLN) and Tampa Bay Library Consortium (TBLC). The MLCs are nonprofit organizations made up different types of libraries, including any combination of academic, school, special, state institutional or public libraries. They were formed to meet the educational and informational needs of Florida residents by encouraging and ensuring cooperation among libraries for the development of library services.

### **Tribal Community Libraries**

The Seminole Tribe of Florida provides tribal community libraries on four of the six Seminole reservations. These tribal libraries are small public libraries open to all tribal members and to the general public. The Seminole Tribal Library System is a member of the American Library Association and the American Indian Library Association. It is also a member of the Southwest Florida Library Network (SWFLN).

### **State-Supported Institutional Libraries**

State-supported institutional libraries include libraries located in correctional institutions administered by the Florida Department of Corrections or in facilities administered by the Florida Department of Children and Families. Institutional libraries provide both general library programs and law library programs, as required, at their major institutions, annexes and work camps.

- General library programs provide print and audio-visual materials essential to supporting the activities of the institution's education and treatment programs; resources to permit inmates to achieve functional literacy; and the resources needed to provide inmates with access to current information and to promote reading as a rewarding leisure time activity.
- As required by law, law library programs provide inmates with the materials and services necessary for securing access to the courts; access to trained inmate law clerks; and access to related legal services, such as copying services, notary services and supply services.