

COUNTY LIBRARY MASTER PLAN

GEO LIB PROGRAM FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSTIY



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INTRODUCTION

Public libraries remain the premiere agency that communities count on to provide access to all types of information and resources, and help guide them in their choices.

In July of 2002, County contracted with the GeoLib Program within the Florida Resources and Environmental Analysis Center (FREAC) at Florida State University (FSU) to develop a comprehensive Library Master Plan that identifies, prioritizes, and recommends the process and development of public library services in County for the next five to ten years. This document represents the product of that original contract.

LIBRARY SERVICE STANDARDS

Prior to this planning document the County Library, a young library system formally developed in 1989, did not have a master plan to guide long range planning for facilities and services in the county. This master plan provides recommendations for existing facilities, future facilities and services, and recommends future policies that will enhance the quality of library services for county residents for the next ten to fifteen years.

PARTICIPANTS AND PROCESS

County and its citizens, the County Board of County Commissioners, and the County Library are partners in planning and implementing the County Library Master Plan. Other active participants interviewed by GeoLib, include elected officials, library staff, key city and county staff, library board members, representatives of those with a vested interest in the library and county citizens.

These interviews allowed GeoLib to best understand perceptions of the current County Library and the desires for future changes in library services.

SUMMARY OF LIBRARY MASTER PLAN

Utilizing the information from the interviews and the collected data sets and documents, GeoLib staff then conducted a detailed analysis of the current status of the library facilities and services in County. This analysis looked at library service levels, materials collections, hours of operation, space utilization, and adequacy of current facility locations. A synopsis of the results of that analysis is provided in Chapter 2 of this report on Existing County Library System Analysis. This analysis of the adequacy of current library facilities and services was then repeated relative to projected county demographic changes through the year 2010 and beyond. The results of this futuristic analysis in combination with that presented in Chapter 2 is provided in Chapter 3 of this report on County Library Needs. The library needs identified are aggregated and synthesized into specific recommendations for the County Library in Chapter 4. Finally, the recommendations are prioritized and combined with the projected County Library budget over the next few years developed by staff within the County Office of Management and Budget into an action plan that can be implemented by the County Library in Chapter 5 of this report.