

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 library plus branches that serve an entire county. The county library director supervises staff at all locations (e.g., Citrus, Columbia, Leon, Marion).
- Cooperative library systems are directed by a cooperative coordinator who may be employed by the cooperative's governing board (e.g., Okaloosa, Pinellas, Polk), by the county (e.g., Lake) or by a member library (e.g., Hendry, Hillsborough). Each member library is administered by its own library director, rather than a single centralized director.

Multicounty Consolidated and *Multicounty Cooperative* library systems are made up of 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 (e.g., Suwannee River Regional).
- The Multicounty Cooperative director usually coordinates cooperative-wide services and programs while county library directors manage county-specific operations. Outlets are considered to be member libraries, with each county library governed by its respective county commission. The Cooperative may have its own separate governing board (e.g., Heartland Library Cooperative, Panhandle Public Library Cooperative).

Independent Municipal libraries - Some incorporated municipalities (cities, towns, villages) choose to operate an independent library that is separate from the county system (e.g., Boca Raton, Hialeah, Maitland).

Tribal Library System -The Seminole Tribe of Florida provides Tribal community libraries on four of the six Seminole Reservations. The 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, the American Indian Library Association and a member of the Southwest Florida Library Network (SWFLN).

State-Supported Institutional Libraries (e.g., correctional institution libraries administered by the Florida Department of Corrections, etc.). Correctional institutions provide both general library programs and law library programs at their major institutions, annexes and work camps.

General library programs provide print and audio-visual materials essential to support 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, the law library programs provide inmates with the materials and services necessary to secure access to the courts; access to law library collections and trained inmate law clerks; and access to related legal services such as copying services, notary services, and supply services for insolvent inmates.

School Media Centers – Public Elementary, Secondary and Charter Schools

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

Academic Libraries

Libraries that are part of an accredited university or college in the state of Florida are eligible for LSTA funding.

There are 11 public universities and a liberal arts college that comprise the State University System of Florida (examples: Florida A&M University, Florida Gulf Coast University and New College of Florida).

In addition, the Florida College System comprises 28 public community colleges and state colleges with over 100 locations throughout the state (examples: Brevard Community College, Miami Dade College and Pensacola State College).

Florida has 48 private universities. The Independent Colleges and Universities of Florida (ICUF) is an association of 28 private, educational institutions (examples: Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Flagler College and University of Tampa). Additionally, there are 20 colleges and universities that are not affiliated with the ICUF, but are fully accredited universities in the state of Florida (examples: Trinity College, Everglades University and Johnson & Wales University).

Special Libraries

A special library is one that is not an academic, school or public library. Special libraries include law libraries, news libraries, corporate libraries and medical libraries, information resource centers located at publicly supported government agencies, museums, hospitals, associations and other organizations with specialized information needs.

Multitype Library Consortium

Multitype library cooperatives are nonprofit organizations made up of more than one type of library, including any combination of academic, school, special, state institutional, and public libraries. They were formed to meet the educational and informational needs of Florida residents by encouraging and ensuring cooperation among libraries of all types for the development of library service. Eligible library consortia in Florida are the five multitype library cooperatives: 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).