

Florida Library Association
President's Theme
2010 – 2011



Open Libraries, Open Minds

Open Libraries - on the most basic level we need to keep libraries open to the public. With no end in sight to the economic downturn in Florida, library advocates will need to redouble their efforts to protect the progress that was made during the past decade. With increasing library usage, declining tax support and change in local and state legislative leadership due to term limits, we will be facing some unprecedented challenges. FLA is the one association that can speak for all types of libraries and we will be asking for your support throughout the year.

Open Libraries - How will people connect to your library? Rapidly changing technology including social networks and mobile technology has the potential to open libraries 24/7 as we adapt our service delivery techniques. The 2011 FLA Annual Conference programs will emphasize new technologies and how to incorporate them into your service plans.

Open Minds - one of our traditional values has been to make available information from all points of view. Many people have commented on the apparent decline in thoughtful political discourse in our society. To paraphrase Jefferson – an informed citizenry is the foundation of democracy. Libraries inform citizens. Libraries open kids' minds. Libraries are the refuge of the incurably curious.

In spite of the tough economy, FLA remains a strong organization and we will continue to be strong advocates for librarians and libraries. To keep the organization strong, membership participation in the business of the organization is key. Whether you are a new or veteran member, I encourage you to join a committee or participate in an interest group and help FLA grow stronger while enhancing your professional skills.

John J. Callahan III

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