Why Floridians Value Their Public Libraries

Floridians love their libraries – Fifty-five percent of Floridians have library cards. That's more than 10.5 million people. *Florida Department of State*

Floridians really enjoy reading - Florida libraries circulated over 126 million items – books, cds, dvds, etc., in fiscal year 2009.

Books, music and movies - There are 39 million items in Florida public libraries. Of these, over 800,000 are e-books, 2.4 million are audio and 3 million are video.

Floridians vote for libraries with their feet – Florida residents visited public libraries about 88.9 million times in 2009 for an average of 4.7 visits per person.

Libraries help children learn and prepare them for school – Libraries help young children learn to read and help parents and caregivers learn to support that learning. Florida libraries conducted over 117,000 programs for children in 2009 with over 3.2 million children attending– and children checked out over 32.4 million items!

Floridians come to libraries for technology and job search - There are over 14,378 public access computers available in Florida libraries. Floridians used these computers 22.6 million times in 2009, and over 2.6 million Floridians received technology instruction in libraries. Frequently use is for job seeking! Many libraries offer free wireless access!

Many Floridians use libraries from their home, school or office - Floridians visited library websites over 71.2 million times in 2009, using services like the Florida Electronic Library that offers electronic information and online help.

Librarians help you find what you're looking for - Library staff answered about 29 million reference questions in 2009; 2.4 million of those questions were answered using online reference services.

For many, the library is their lifeline to essential government services –Library staff help the public transact their E-Government business using library computers for services including Medicare, Fla. Dept. of Children and Families, immigration, and the IRS. Library staff are important members of disaster management teams and following disasters, library computers help survivors locate family members and apply for insurance and assistance.

Libraries top citizen satisfaction surveys – In a national survey, libraries received the best grades of any community institutions. Nearly half of survey respondents gave libraries an "A" – higher than public schools and police. *Public Agenda, 2006*

Florida libraries are efficient - Florida libraries served the public at an average cost of $30.70 per person in 2009 compared with a national average of $36.36 in 2008. *IMLS*

Good return on investment - Florida's public libraries return at least $8.32 for every $1 invested. *Florida Department of State, 2010*

Thank you for supporting Florida libraries!