



# SNAPSHOT:

## A DAY IN THE LIFE OF FLORIDA LIBRARIES

### Selected Comments – January 2011 Snapshot Day

I would rather live in a city without electricity than a city without a library. Omar, Boca Raton

My school work would be impossible without the depth of resources and journal collections provided by my library. I have also discovered --and rediscovered--wonderful works of literature that had fallen into obscurity thanks to browsing the library collections. (Also, I get coffee at the library!) **Joey, Tallahassee**

During this time of fiscal constraints, very few budget items offer to the public, young and old, a service that includes academic advancement, enjoyment, and a direct connection to local and regional affairs. This and the many other valuable services our free library system offers makes it one of our best bangs for the buck! **Gene, Port Charlotte**

Strozier Library helps me with research needed to succeed in my courses. The first floor is ideal for study groups and discussions. The Starbucks in the library keeps me awake. **Taylor, Tallahassee**

The library helped me find a job! **Rebah, Lake City**

"The library helps me by providing an opportunity to volunteer and earn [high school] service hours as well as look for books and other media. I am currently working on SAT preparation and the library contains many books to help me with the process." **Sean, Dundee**

My granddaughter has the choice of 3 after school activities - the park, McDonald's or the library. She always chooses the library. **Barbara, Fruitland**

OMG! The library helps me in so many ways because my family doesn't have a computer, so not only it helps the kids, but also me as a mom that's also a full-time student. Thanks a lot. **Alice, Lake City**

Helps me save money by checking out books versus purchasing. Also the American Girl Book Club inspired my 6 year-old to begin reading the series and now at 7 years of age she reads on a 5th grade level! **Jeannie, Pensacola**

Personally I use many of the Library's offerings and believe the tax monies used to support the library are dollars well spent! **Bob, Leesburg**

1. (It) provides enriching resources to all students regardless of family income 2. (It) maintains a centralized function to the school pulling us together via themes, media, encouragement in academics, and much more.

**Kathy, 1<sup>st</sup> grade teacher, Tampa**

The library helps me so much in learning English language, writing, grammar, and talking. This is important because my work depends on my English knowledge. My first language is Spanish and I just depend on this knowledge for working. **P.J., Lake City**

I used WorldCat to borrow old movies that my invalid mother enjoyed. We laughed and sang along with the old songs. The Library was instrumental in giving her an enjoyable quality of life in her last days. **Laura, Lakeland**

The computer is the key to finding whatever you desire. Without a computer, I could not have found any career. The employees help me a lot when there were obstacles I've endured trying to paste, cut, and send resumes. Thank you. **Angie, Fort Lauderdale**

It helps me empower my future students and my own self to become a better teacher and a role model for the future of our society. **Juliana, Jupiter**

I have a daughter in 1st grade. We love to read together and we check out lots of books from our library. Thanks to the library my daughter is a top reader in her class. **Toni, Crestview**

I couldn't afford my reading habit. **Bev, Seffner**

It helps with planting my garden. **Bookmobile User, Olustee**

My mother has been blind for over 10 years. As an avid reader of mysteries, she has not missed a beat due to the use of audiobooks, both tapes and CDs. Thank You Libraries for making this available to us for FREE! **Dee, Lakeland**

@ 94 it keeps me posted. **Geradina, Titusville**

I take my 4 year old granddaughter to story time and she enjoys it. She also uses the computer and loves checking out books for home. The aquarium is a big hit with her grandma! **Anonymous, Niceville**

I get on the computers to look for jobs. And I check out books, movies and fax things on and make copies too. I do my Food Stamp application on the computer too. **Shawn**

I am a homeschooler and avid reader and the cost of books is astronomical. This enables me to limit costs and have a vast number of resources. **Anonymous, Clermont**

Books of the library have guided our whole family through 16 countries in Europe and all 50 states in the U.S. My wife has learned exercise and craft info to enrich her life. History has enriched mine. Julie Hudson has been a treasure to us over 17 years! **Rand, Clearwater**

It brings the world in closer. **Ike**

The library helps me and others afford to enjoy movies, computers, and books without having to go out and buy them. It also gives my kids somewhere safe to go instead of out on the streets. **Anonymous, Astor**

The library keeps your brain neurons sharp. **Anonymous, Fort Pierce**

I use the Library for research and I just like to read. My mom does not have all the money in the world. **Zsazeli, Lakeland**

It provides a 'window to the world' to my bedridden wife. **The Joiners, Tampa**

We use the library to escape into adventure. **Tatiana, Herndon Branch**

The library helped me find a job! **Rebah, Lake City**

It is open when I need to do class projects and if I want to just read a book. It is very helpful and convenient. **Poindexter, Quincy**

I sold my couch today on Craigslist @ the Library. **Robert, Clearwater**

It provides me with books, reading materials, reference materials, genealogy research sources. The library is also a complete community resource center. **Anonymous**

It's teaching me how to use a computer. **Douglas, Leesburg**

I love to read so coming to the library is like a candy store for me. Plus the use of computers has been a great help to me since my hard drive crashed. **Nellie, Dundee**

The library has always been this place for me to focus on a particular task whether it's academic or personal. The ambiance within it allows me to find the motivation to get things done. Also, its resources such as books and CDs are very much an advantage. But above all, to me the library is a whole culture that is an integral part of this university. **Sitou, Jacksonville**

The library helps me to obtain books, magazines, and dvds that I am interested in. They hold programs I enjoy attending like: painting classes; craft classes; and educational classes. The library, with their internet access, also allowed me to complete my taxes on time when my computer crashed. The staff is always helpful and easy to talk with. **Sallie, Lake County**

They taught me how to read! I am a Spanish speaking person. The staff here is amazing! Please give them a raise. Thank you all. **Jose, Lake County**

So helpful to me when I ask all my questions. The library is friendly, personal and I enjoy the quaint setting. I recommend to my friends to stop here, rather than travel away to the other side of town. Being here, this library is like a homey experience. **Anonymous, Minneola**

The library helps me by giving me something to do rather than just watching tv or playing video games and reading can expand your knowledge and giving good stories to read. **Eric**

The library helps me in many ways. It helps me because I am able to use the computers to research things for projects. Also, I am able to pick out FREE educational books that help me in my academics. **Nerely**

I read five or six books a week and the Wall Street Journal. I would be lost without the library! **Bob, Pensacola.**

The library provides a quiet, reflective place to think, write, and read. The journals are particularly helpful and useful as well as the literature in various fields. I prefer the environmental space of the library to any other workspace. **Florence, Tallahassee**

Now I understand!! **Kevin, Hialeah**

My kids' favorite birthday gift when they were four was to get their own library card. What torture it was to wait until it could be in their hot little hands! **Patricia, Port St. Lucie**

I am a labor in life and have little knowledge of anything much more than basic skills in life. The library provides me with affordable self-education. I have learned how to build a cabin, dress and cook wild meat and many other skills without help from welfare or any handouts. **Jeremiah, Fort Pierce**

The library is vitally important to me as I have no internet or cable TV and my information and entertainment sources are quite limited. I would also like to add that this library's staff is the best I have ever had the privilege to associate with. **Anonymous, Fort White**

The library is very important to me, not only for school, but because it's like my private getaway. **Allison, Fort White**

My child utilizes the dog therapy once a week on a regular basis. Dominique loves this service and it makes her feel good. **Dominique, Boca Raton**

I love the Plant City Library. My husband & I are on a fixed income & don't have cable TV. We check out DVD's & cassettes to watch. We use the Information Desk for information we need to look up on the computers (we are computer illiterate). Everyone that works here is friendly and very helpful. **Anonymous, Plant City**

The library provides information & computer accessibility to our community, that is not provided by any other agency. Books are friends that can take you on an arm chair adventure without having to pack a suitcase, buy a ticket or leave home. **Maggie, Plant City**

Provides easy access to the most recent books for my wife to read - and saves us money by not having to buy them. I use the travel books every year to plan my vacation. We bring our grandchildren to the library programs and (mostly we use the books as a way to encourage and support their school reading.) Thank you for a great staff and support always-no matter what! **Ken, Plant City**

The service is phenomenal. The computer lab is great. Knowledgeable and friendly staff. For great service go to Lighthouse Point Library David, Deerfield Beach. **Anonymous**

Our library is the community heart of our city and its neighbors. I've noticed that during the economic slump many newcomers have begun using its resources - from sudden stay-at-home fathers, job seekers, people with less cash to spend on entertainment. They have extended out to use more and more facilities, making new

friends, learning new skills thereby avoiding depression and discouragement. Our library is a dose of preventative medicine for all. **Norah, Pompano Beach**

Thanks to the leadership of our library director, Doreen Gauthier, our library is a world in itself and our home away from home. Wonderful attractions are available to us all year round, free of charge including the usual books, DVDs, videos, Audiotapes, research implements and personal staff and volunteer assistance. In addition, we have education, training and entertainment in clubs for patrons of all ages from tiny tots, teenagers, adults to senior citizens. These include storytimes, 3 language classes, computer use and training, bingo, writer's workshop, book review club, financial planning, etc. Our library is brand new designed in a nautical motif evolving from a store front over 30 years ago. Perfect for a SNAPSHOT, why don't you "Come see us sometime?" as Mae West would say. That's an invitation to take a real "SNAPSHOT"! I love our library!  
**Irene, Pompano Beach**

Invaluable resource for research. It is a great place to learn about local history. As a home school parent the activities have been a wonderful addition to the social curriculum. **Chuck, Quincy**

As a homeless person, the library is dry when it rains, warm when it's cold, and cool when it's hot. As a street survivor, I once asked a medical professional how I could strengthen my brain and was told you can't...but I think reading strengthens it. So I read a lot. Thank you for bearing with me. I think of it as my second home.  
**Tim, Key West**

I couldn't function without the library. I read constantly about almost anything. The Umatilla Library is so convenient and has everything I need. **Meris, Umatilla**

I visit the library every day--I need a book a day on average--the library is also my resource for papers, research, copies and events in the humanities and literature. Without it, I would relocate immediately.  
**Sandra, Lake City**

The library helped me find a job! **Rebah**

My 22 month old daughter loves the Story Time she enjoys listening/participating in the activities. Please keep them. **Anonymous**

In a small town the library was the way I met a lot of the moms I hang around with now. It also is something nice to enjoy in today's economy that doesn't break the bank.. can't get better than free. **Bianca, Crestview**

My mother has been blind for over 10 years. As an avid reader of mysteries, she has not missed a beat due to the use of audiobooks, both tapes and CDs. Thank you libraries for making this available to us for FREE! **Dee, Lakeland**

My personal goal is to help anyone who wants to further their education. The Library has allowed me to continue my work as a teacher or in this case "a tutor" The study rooms allow one on one or group lessons - I can see the benefit for everyone of any age. **T, Lakeland**

My library not only helps me, but it is a very important part of my community because it enables persons of all races, income levels, backgrounds and educational levels to avail themselves of the different services it provides. These services have become increasingly important and varied: no longer does my library just loan

out books but also music cds, videos and dvds, the library provides access to the World Wide Web and has a wide range of training and educational programming. It is a safe haven for children to research their homework and Senior Citizens to spend their day or for that matter for any of us who just need a place to go and get away from a fast paced world. **Tony, Calhoun County**

The library helps me in more than just finding books. The library is a great place to come and get help with the simple things such as homework, job studies, research, one on one time is needed for things you can't find or just don't understand and besides I don't know another place where you can go to enjoy a good book and a nice cup of coffee. **Tricki, Calhoun County**

The library keeps a lot of people off the street doing meaningless things. I love coming here because I love to read and I'm instilling the same qualities in my one-year old. **Shanika, Fort Lauderdale**

You guys are always doing something fun in here. **Mr. Steve, Oviedo**

Our library is fun it's not even like a library. **Drew, Oviedo**

The library is like a second home to me. Someone in the library staff is always there to help. If I am working on a project I come here so I have less distractions, and if help is needed. I always get lost in the books and always enjoy helping out. **Lizz, Viera**

I love to read and would never be able to afford to buy books. Also, it is wonderful for research and I like the people! **Nancy, Carabelle**

Since I am retired and live on a fixed income I read more than before. The library always has local events/activities in the area. Also, the library provides computers for the people of Carrabelle to use for free. **Barb, Carabelle**

The library helps with doing research for papers, especially because they are so willing to help you, even one on one. **Anonymous, Jupiter**

All your books are so fascinating. **Courtney, Callahan**

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