



Leadership. Advocacy. Communication.

## Why Floridians Value Their Public Libraries

**Floridians love their libraries** - Fifty percent of Floridians have library cards. That's more than 9.4 million people.

**Floridians really enjoy reading** - Florida libraries circulated over 101 million items – books, cds, dvds, etc., in fiscal year 2006.

**Books, music and movies** - There are 33 million items in Florida public libraries' collections. Of these items, 2 million are audio and 2.2 million are video.

**Floridians vote for libraries with their feet** – Florida residents visited public libraries about 72 million times in 2006 for an average of 3.9 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 113,129 programs for children in 2006 with over 3 million children attending– and children checked out over 26 million items!

**Floridians come to libraries for technology** - There are over 10,500 public access computers available at Florida libraries. Floridians used these computers 17.5 million times in 2006, and over 1.7 million Floridians received technology instruction in libraries. And many libraries offer FREE wireless access!

**Many Floridians use libraries from their home, school or office** - Floridians visited library websites almost 37 million times in 2006, 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 24 million reference questions in fiscal year 2006; 400,000 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 serve the public at an average cost of \$26.59 per person annually, which is 16 percent less than the national average. *NCES*

**Good return on investment** - Florida's public libraries return at least \$6.54 for every \$1 invested. *Florida Department of State, 2004*

**Thank you for supporting Florida libraries!**