

What the Library Offers

The Miami-Dade Public Library System is an award-winning, vibrant, community learning center with 49 branches and two mobile libraries. Unlike the book repositories of the past, the library provides a broad array of services to one of the largest and most diverse populations in the United States. Over 2.5 million residents of Miami-Dade County enjoy access to a collection of four million items, in a wide variety of formats and languages; a wealth of virtual resources that includes full-text access to magazines, newspapers, encyclopedias, business information, downloadable audio and video; and a high quality computer system and network consisting of 1,850 public access computer workstations and 600 laptops with full Internet access. The library considers itself “the third place,” a place where children, teens, adults and seniors feel comfortable, safe and welcomed. It’s a place where mothers mingle after story times, where teens and tweens come in regularly after school, and where community leaders can share their messages and engage in public dialogue.

Special Collections

The library system is home to several special collections that support the informational, educational and recreational needs of the community. These include:

Cuban Collection

The Cuban Collection is housed in the Languages Department of the Main Library and contains materials about Cuba and Cuban immigrants in the United States.

Florida Collection & Romer Photograph Collection

Information on all aspects of the Sunshine State, with special emphasis on South Florida, can be found in this unique department. This important collection of Florida authors and Floridiana includes rare books, documents, photographs, Florida Statutes and indexes of regional newspapers. It houses the Gleason Waite Romer Collection of 17,500 photographic negatives and prints, recording Miami’s history from pioneer days through the 1950s.

Genealogy Department

A complete collection of the U.S. Census for all states and for all available years is housed in this extensive reference department. Other important microfilm holdings include the U.S. City Directories covering major cities from 1860 through 1935 and immigration lists.

Government Documents

As a Federal Depository Library, the Government Documents Department makes accessible a wide range of materials in different formats from the Government Printing Office.

Orchestral Scores Collection

The library was the recipient of a collection of music scores that belonged to the former Florida Philharmonic Orchestra. This important collection includes orchestral, chamber, brass, and choral music with approximately 2,630 titles.

Schomburg Collection

The North Dade Regional Library is the home to several special collections, including the rare Schomburg Clipping files and one of the most comprehensive reference collections pertaining to Black Studies in South Florida.

The Permanent Art Collection & Vasari Project

The library has a permanent art collection of more than 2,200 works of art. The collection consists of works on paper, photographs, paintings, multiples, artists' books and small sculptures with a focus on African American, Latino, and Miami artists; national and international artists are also represented. Additionally, the Vasari Project is an archive that documents the development of the visual arts in Miami-Dade County since 1945.

Fact: The Miami-Dade Public Library System is one of the oldest existing institutions with an art collection in Miami – its history of collecting art spans over 40 years.

Fact: Established in 2000, the Vasari Project currently holds over 6,000 items documenting all aspects of Miami's art history.

Signature Services

The following are just some of the key services offered by the Library System.



Project L.E.A.D. (Literacy for Every Adult in Dade) is an adult literacy program designed to assist English speaking adults who are functionally illiterate and have reading and writing skills that are inadequate to cope with the demands of everyday life.

Fact: Project L.E.A.D. currently has 206 matched teams. Each team consists of a volunteer tutor and an adult learner.

Mobile Libraries

Mobile library service is offered daily at public parks, childcare facilities, condominium complexes, retirement communities, senior centers and recreational facilities. Residents can check out books, music, audio books and videos at their convenience.

Fact: Bookmobiles have logged over 391,000 miles since 2001. That is the equivalent to circling the earth almost 16 times or 72 round trips to Los Angeles!

CONNECTIONS

Library Service for the Homebound

The Connections: Library Service for the Homebound provides books-by-mail to individuals of all ages who are unable to visit the library in person due to chronic illness, physical disability and frailties of age.

Fact: Connections was established in 1974, and just mailed their one millionth book to a library patron!



The Talking Books Library loans Braille and audio books and magazines, along with a player, FREE by mail to persons who have difficulty reading or using printed books and other materials because of blindness or visual, physical, or reading disabilities.

Fact: Each month, the Talking Books Library serves over 5,000 patrons and circulates over 10,000 audio, Braille and downloadable materials.



Jump Start is a “story time kit to go” program for licensed preschool and kindergarten childcare centers. The kits contain materials to present fun, high quality story times on a variety of themes.

Fact: Jump Start has a collection of over 750 kits on a variety of themes such as Birthdays, Brothers and Sisters, Creepy Crawlies, School and Special Needs.

Programming

Programming supports the mission of the Miami-Dade Public Library System by providing customers with information, education and recreational opportunities. Programming is also a way to increase awareness of the valuable services and resources that the library offers the community. For many Miami-Dade County residents, the Library System is one of the most significant representatives of their tax dollars at work. The public has come to rely on the library for crucial training on real-world skills, such as career planning, access to e-government and small business management. The library is also a major source for culture and entertainment – offering more than 15,000 programs each year. These programs are part of a comprehensive plan that is developed with the input of librarians, library administrators, and the public. Contents of the plan are developed based on public feedback on prior years programs, and are also guided by national and international standards/ trends in library services, through the American Library Association (ALA), Public Library Association (PLA), Florida Library Association (FLA), and the International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA). Best practices from local and national library systems are employed in the development of the plan. The library's delivery of its programs, both inside its building and outside in the community, fill a great void for residents who would otherwise have no access to these sources of education and entertainment. Library programs are crafted around national events such as *Banned Book Week*, *Teen Read* and *National Library Week*. Other signature programs include:



The *International Art of Storytelling* (AOS) is a cultural and educational program that focuses on the many ways in which storytelling is used to impact lives. The goal of this annual program is to stimulate the imagination and help children develop a love of the cultural arts, reading and libraries. Now in its 14th year, AOS activities span over six months and include more than 15,000 participants. AOS programs are conducted not only at the library, but in schools and other venues, such as Deering Estate, Pinecrest Gardens and the Science Museum. Among the various components of AOS are an International Library-to-Library Exchange, where best practices in program and service delivery are shared; workshops are presented for teachers, librarians and parents; programs for teens, family programs, and an International Family Festival that showcases the importance of storytelling as a vital tool in education and entertainment.



MetLife Creative Aging Programs

The Creative Aging program for seniors is funded through a partnership with the MetLife Foundation and Lifetime Arts, an organization that encourages creative aging by promoting the inclusion of professional arts programs in organizations that serve older adults.

This program provides seniors with the opportunity to be creative through the arts while being socially engaged.



The *Reading Ready* Early Literacy program offers year-round activities tailored for parents and caregivers of children - birth to five years. This program provides resources to assist parents with the skill to help their children develop early literacy skills.

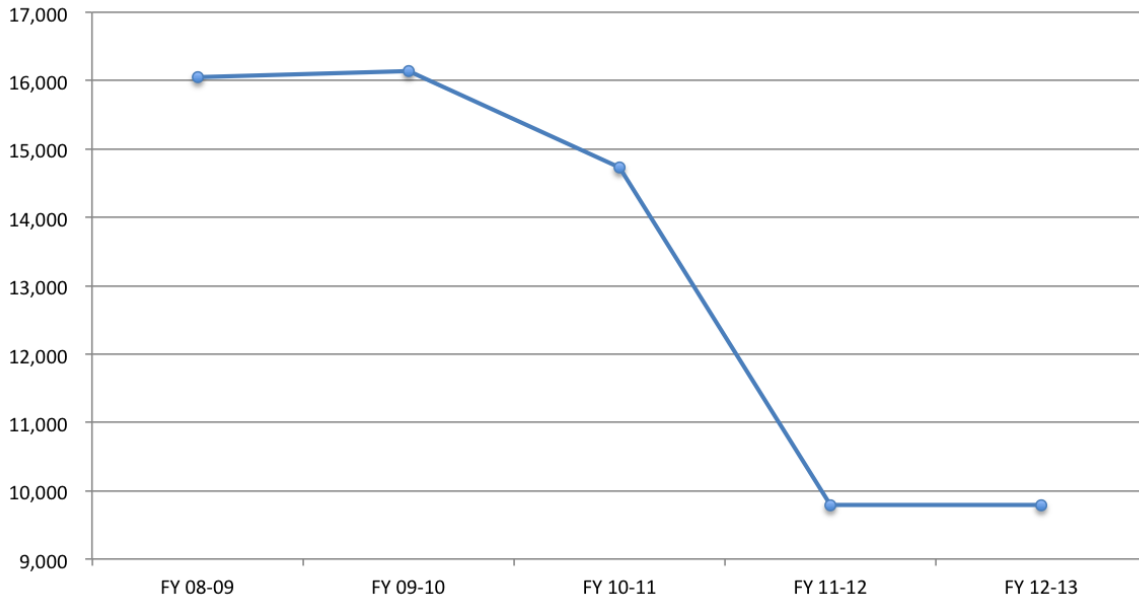
YOUmedia MIAMI

The Library System was awarded a grant by The John S. and James L Knight Foundation to create an interactive learning space, at the North Dade Regional Library, where teens can learn to use digital media. This learning space encourages individual and collaborative work and also provides a safe and open space where teens can come to create and explore. YOUmedia Miami programming serves mainly to increase civic awareness and engagement with the local and the global community around issues that are of interest to youth and that support positive social change.

A complete list of programs for fiscal year 2013-14 is included in AAM7 Supporting Documents.

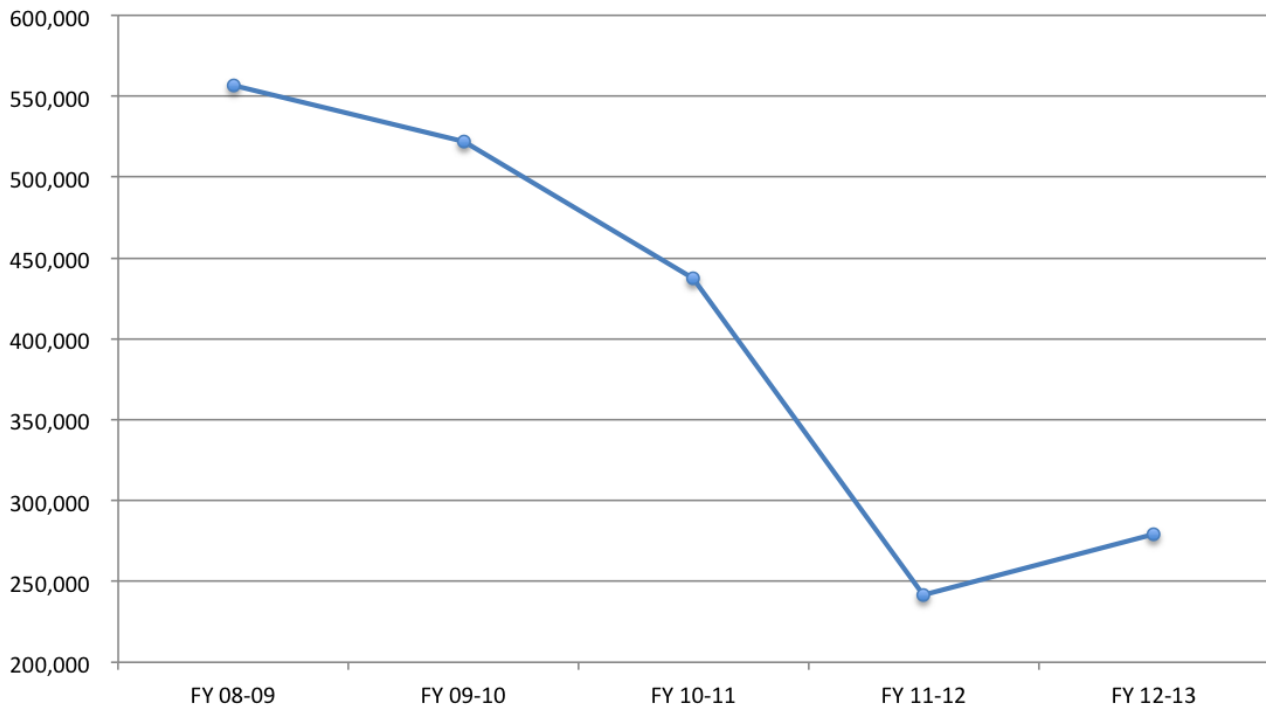
Library Programming Statistics

Total Number of Programs



	FY 08-09	FY 09-10	FY 10-11	FY 11-12	FY 12-13
Programs	16,053	16,133	14,735	9,793	9,791

Total Program Attendance



	FY 08-09	FY 09-10	FY 10-11	FY 11-12	FY 12-13
Program Attendance	556,380	521,737	437,209	241,640	278,830