

## History of the Miami-Dade Public Library System



Throughout the past century, Miamians have watched their public libraries grow from a reading room in Lemon City to 49 libraries spanning the county's southernmost point in Homestead to its northern reaches in Sunny Isles Beach. The library system has not only grown, but also dramatically evolved in the way services are provided – all in an effort to meet the informational, educational and recreational needs of the people of Miami-Dade County.

### **A Look Back**

Public libraries in Miami have a long, rich history – a history that traces back to the late 19th century. The Library System as

we know it today began with the Lemon City Reading Room in 1894 followed soon after with the Coconut Grove Reading Room in 1895. The earliest libraries in Miami were founded through the efforts of local women's clubs resulting in the construction of the Coconut Grove Library in 1901 and the purchase of a storefront in 1902 that became the Lemon City Library. The first bookmobile for traveling library service began in January of 1928 and Miami residents were so proud of the bookmobile they put it in the Orange Bowl parade (then known as the Palm Fete).

In 1942, these libraries were brought together to form the City of Miami Public Library System. In 1971, city and county libraries joined forces and formed the Miami-Dade Public Library System. Almost immediately, the new library system experienced an unprecedented boost in its growth. This expansion was a result of the 1972 Decade of Progress Bond Program – a \$553 million initiative that made possible many important local projects including the construction of 13 new libraries. Through the Decade of Progress Bond Program, regional libraries were constructed in South Dade, West Dade and North Dade, as well as branches in Northeast, Model City, Kendall, Miami Lakes, South Miami, Homestead, Coral Reef and Key Biscayne. Finally in 1985, at the newly constructed Cultural Plaza in downtown Miami, a new Main Library opened.

This period of growth was followed in 1990 with the opening of two additional libraries in the areas of North Central and West Kendall. In 1992, the world's first library on an elevated transit system opened at the Metrorail's Civic Center station. Over the next eight years, no further expansion of the system was funded and no new libraries opened. It wasn't until the fall of 2001, when the Mayor and Board of County Commissioners voted to increase the library system's budget which provided funding for capital improvement initiatives – making way for the opening of 18 new libraries by the year 2011.

## **Today**

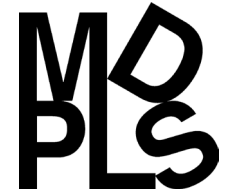
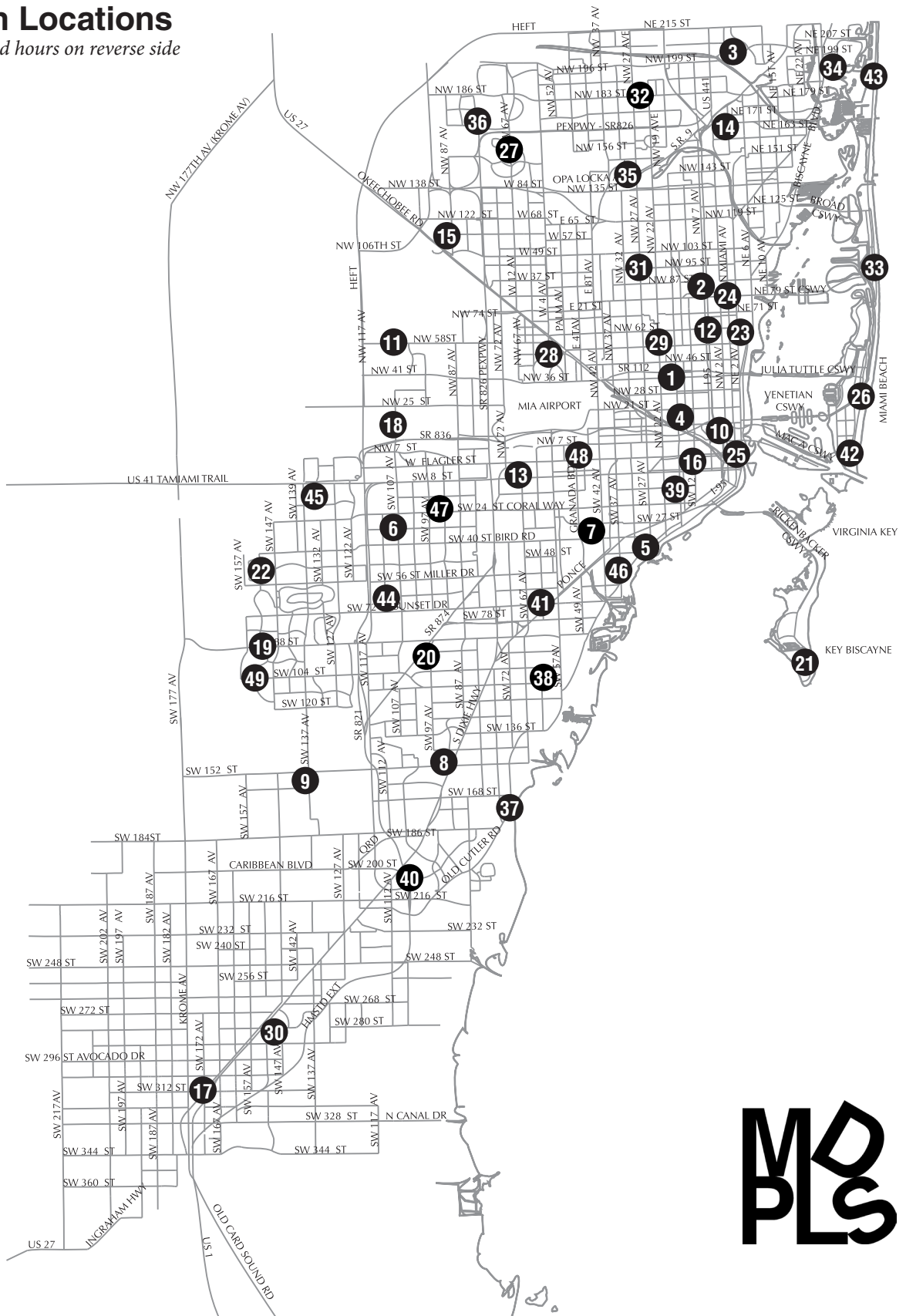
When the Board of County Commissioners approved the library system's Capital Plan in 2001, it was the first time in nearly a decade that the department had resources to open new libraries. The plan called for the immediate opening of a new wave of smaller libraries and the subsequent construction of 10 new libraries. These smaller libraries were fashioned after a homework center in the City of Doral and became the model for storefront libraries that were located in shopping centers throughout the County. In rapid succession, the library system successfully opened these storefront libraries in Country Walk, Hialeah Gardens, Tamiami, Naranja, Lakes of the Meadow, Concord, California Club, Doral, Palm Springs North, Opa-Locka, and Sunset.

Since 2001, eight newly-constructed libraries have opened. These include Arcola Lakes, Golden Glades, International Mall, Kendale Lakes, Naranja, Palmetto Bay, Pinecrest, and Virrick Park. The Northeast Branch is currently under construction and is scheduled for completion in 2014. In addition, four branches have been relocated to larger facilities and major renovations have taken place at six branches.

In the more than 100 years of serving the community, the library system has experienced tremendous change and growth and all the while remaining committed to being "the compelling community destination, by providing a five-star customer service experience."

# Branch Locations

Addresses and hours on reverse side



## Branch Addresses and Hours

- 1 ALLAPATTAH**  
1799 NW 35 St. - 305.638.6086  
Mon. Tues. Wed. Thurs. Sat. 10-6  
Fri. Sun. Closed
- 2 ARCOLA LAKES**  
8240 NW 7 Ave. - 305.694.2707  
Mon. Tues. Sat. 10-6 | Wed. Thurs. 12-8  
Fri. Sun. Closed
- 3 CALIFORNIA CLUB**  
850 Ives Dairy Rd. - 305.770.3155  
Mon. Fri. Sat. 10-6 | Tues. Wed. 12-8  
Thurs. Sun. Closed
- 4 CIVIC CENTER PORTA KIOSK**  
Metrorail Civic Center Station - 305.324.0291  
Mon. - Fri. 6-10 & 2-6 | Sat. Sun. Closed
- 5 COCONUT GROVE**  
2875 McFarlane Rd. - 305.442.8695  
Mon. Wed. Thurs. Sat. 10-6 | Tues. 12-8  
Fri. Sun. Closed
- 6 CONCORD**  
3882 SW 112 Ave. - 305.207.1344  
Mon. Wed. Thurs. Sat. 10-6 | Tues. 12-8  
Fri. Sun. Closed
- 7 CORAL GABLES**  
3443 Segovia St. - 305.442.8706  
Mon. Thurs. Fri. Sat. 10-6 | Tues. Wed. 1-9  
Sun. Closed
- 8 CORAL REEF**  
9211 Coral Reef Dr. - 305.233.8324  
Mon. Fri. Sat. 10-6 | Tues. Wed. 1-9  
Thurs. Sun. Closed
- 9 COUNTRY WALK**  
15433 SW 137 Ave. - 786.293.4577  
Mon. Tues. Thurs. Sat. 10-6 | Wed. 12-8  
Fri. Sun. Closed
- 10 CULMER/OVERTOWN**  
350 NW 13 St. - 305.579.5322  
Mon. Tues. Wed. Thurs. Sat. 10-6  
Fri. Sun. Closed
- 11 DORAL**  
10785 NW 58 Street - 305.716.9598  
Mon. Tues. Thurs. Sat. 10-6 | Wed. 12-8  
Fri. Sun. Closed
- 12 EDISON CENTER**  
531 NW 62 St. - 305.757.0668  
Mon. Tues. Wed. Thurs. Sat. 10-6  
Fri. Sun. Closed
- 13 FAIRLAWN**  
6376 SW 8 St. - 305.261.1571  
Mon. Thurs. Fri. Sat. 10-6 | Tues. 12-8  
Wed. Sun. Closed
- 14 GOLDEN GLADES**  
100 NE 166 St. - 305.787.1544  
Mon. Thurs. Sat. 10-6 | Tues. Wed. 12-8  
Fri. Sun. Closed
- 15 HIALEAH GARDENS**  
11300 NW 87 Court - 305.820.8520  
Mon. Tues. Wed. Sat. 10-6 | Thurs. 12-8  
Fri. Sun. Closed
- 16 HISPANIC**  
1398 SW 1 St. - 305.643.8574  
Mon. Tues. Thurs. Sat. 10-6 | Wed. 12-8  
Fri. Sun. Closed
- 17 HOMESTEAD**  
700 N Homestead Blvd. - 305.246.0168  
Mon. Thurs. Sat. 10-6 | Tues. Wed. 1-9  
Fri. Sun. Closed
- 18 INTERNATIONAL MALL**  
10315 NW 12 St. - 305.594.2514  
Mon. Fri. Sat. 10-6 | Tues. Wed. 12-8  
Thurs. Sun. Closed
- 19 KENDALE LAKES**  
15205 SW 88 St. - 305.388.0326  
Mon. Fri. Sat. 10-6 | Wed. Thurs. 1-9  
Tues. Sun. Closed
- 20 KENDALL**  
9101 SW 97 Ave. - 305.279.0520  
Mon. Thurs. Sat. 10-6 | Tues. Wed. 1-9  
Fri. Sun. Closed
- 21 KEY BISCAYNE**  
299 Crandon Blvd. - 305.361.6134  
Mon. Thurs. Fri. Sat. 10-6 | Tues. Wed. 12-8  
Sun. Closed
- 22 LAKES OF THE MEADOW**  
4284 SW 152 Ave. - 305.222.2149  
Mon. Tues. Thurs. Sat. 10-6 | Wed. 12-8  
Fri. Sun. Closed
- 23 LEMON CITY**  
430 NE 61 St. - 305.757.0662  
Mon. Tues. Wed. Fri. Sat. 10-6  
Thurs. Sun. Closed
- 24 LITTLE RIVER**  
160 NE 79 St. - 305.751.8689  
Mon. Tues. Wed. Thurs. Sat. 10-6  
Fri. Sun. Closed
- 25 MAIN LIBRARY**  
101 West Flagler St. - 305.375.2665  
Mon. - Sat. 10-6 | Sun. Closed
- 26 MIAMI BEACH REGIONAL**  
227 22<sup>nd</sup> St. - 305.535.4219  
Mon. Tues. 1-9 | Wed. - Sat. 10-6 | Sun. Closed
- 27 MIAMI LAKES**  
6699 Windmill Gate Rd. - 305.822.6520  
Mon. Thurs. Sat. 10-6 | Tues. Wed. 1-9  
Fri. Sun. Closed
- 28 MIAMI SPRINGS**  
401 Westward Dr. - 305.805.3811  
Mon. Wed. Thurs. Sat. 10-6 | Tues. 12-8  
Fri. Sun. Closed
- 29 MODEL CITY**  
2211 NW 54 St. - 305.636.2233  
Mon. - Fri. 10-6 | Sat. Sun. Closed
- 30 NARANJA**  
14850 SW 280 St. - 305.242.2290  
Mon. Fri. Sat. 10-6 | Tues. Thurs. 12-8  
Wed. Sun. Closed
- 31 NORTH CENTRAL**  
9590 NW 27 Ave. - 305.693.4541  
Mon. Tues. Fri. Sat. 10-6 | Thurs. 12-8  
Wed. Sun. Closed
- 32 NORTH DADE REGIONAL**  
2455 NW 183 St. - 305.625.6424  
Mon. Thurs. Fri. Sat. 10-6 | Tues. Wed. 1-9  
Sun. Closed
- 33 NORTH SHORE**  
7501 Collins Ave. - 305.864.5392  
Mon. Tues. Thurs. Sat. 10-6 | Wed. 12-8  
Fri. Sun. Closed
- 34 NORTHEAST** (Temporary Location)  
Aventura City Hall - Mezzanine Level  
19200 W. Country Club Dr. - 305.931.5512  
Mon. - Fri. 9-5 | Sat. Sun. Closed
- 35 OPA-LOCKA**  
780 Fisherman St. - Suite 140 - 305.688.1134  
Mon. Tues. Wed. Thurs. Sat. 10-6  
Fri. Sun. Closed
- 36 PALM SPRINGS NORTH**  
17601 NW 78 Ave. - 305.820.8564  
Mon. Tues. Fri. Sat. 10-6 | Wed. 12-8  
Thurs. Sun. Closed
- 37 PALMETTO BAY**  
21141 Old Cutler Rd. - 305.232.1771  
Mon. Fri. Sat. 10-6 | Tues. Wed. 12-8  
Thurs. Sun. Closed
- 38 PINECREST**  
5835 SW 111 St. - 305.668.4571  
Mon. Tues. Sat. 10-6 | Wed. Thurs. 1-9  
Fri. Sun. Closed
- 39 SHENANDOAH**  
2111 SW 19 St. - 305.250.4688  
Mon. Wed. Thurs. Sat. 10-6 | Tues. 12-8  
Fri. Sun. Closed
- 40 SOUTH DADE REGIONAL**  
10750 SW 211 St. - 305.233.8140  
Mon. Tues. Fri. Sat. 10-6 | Wed. Thurs. 1-9  
Sun. Closed
- 41 SOUTH MIAMI**  
6000 Sunset Dr. - 305.667.6121  
Mon. Fri. Sat. 10-6 | Tues. Wed. 1-9  
Thurs. Sun. Closed
- 42 SOUTH SHORE**  
131 Alton Rd. - 305.535.4223  
Mon. Tues. Thurs. Sat. 10-6 | Wed. 12-8  
Fri. Sun. Closed
- 43 SUNNY ISLES BEACH**  
18070 Collins Ave. - 305.682.0726  
Mon. Tues. Sat. 10-6 | Wed. Thurs. 12-8  
Fri. 2-6 | Sun. Closed
- 44 SUNSET**  
10855 SW 72 St. - Bay 13 - 305.270.6368  
Mon. Thurs. Sat. 10-6 | Tues. Wed. 12-8  
Fri. Sun. Closed
- 45 TAMIAMI**  
13250-52 SW 8 St. - 305.223.4758  
Mon. Tues. Wed. Sat. 10-6 | Thurs. 12-8  
Fri. Sun. Closed
- 46 VIRRICK PARK**  
3255 Plaza St. - 305.442.7872  
Mon. Fri. Sat. 10-6 | Wed. Thurs. 12-8  
Tues. Sun. Closed
- 47 WEST DADE REGIONAL**  
9445 Coral Way - 305.553.1134  
Mon. Tues. Fri. Sat. 10-6 | Wed. Thurs. 1-9  
Sun. Closed
- 48 WEST FLAGLER**  
5050 West Flagler St. - 305.442.8710  
Mon. Wed. Thurs. Sat. 10-6 | Tues. 12-8  
Fri. Sun. Closed
- 49 WEST KENDALL REGIONAL**  
10201 Hammocks Blvd. - 305.385.7135  
Mon. Thurs. Fri. Sat. 10-6 | Tues. Wed. 1-9  
Sun. Closed
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- OUTREACH SERVICES**
- 32 CONNECTIONS**  
Library Service for the Homebound  
305.474.7251
- 47 MOBILE LIBRARY SERVICES**  
305.480.1729
- 25 PROJECT L.E.A.D.**  
Literacy for Every Adult in Dade  
305.375.5323
- 32 TALKING BOOKS**  
305.751.8687 - 800.451.9544
- TDD SYSTEM WIDE**  
Florida Relay Service - 711