

Alachua County Library District

Source of Information: Shaney Livingston, Library Director, Alachua County Library District;
Alachua County Library District FY 2013-14 Recommended Budget

The evolution of the Alachua County Library District was one that started in 1983, and was approved by voters in the fall of 1985. It began with The City and County Commissions establishing a citizen committee to study the funding of library services countywide. This citizen committee recommended the establishment of an independent taxing district for library services county-wide. Discussion ensued over the next two years, but a consensus was never reached. Instead, a State Representative, with the support of the local delegation, filed enabling legislation for the creation of the Alachua County Library District. It was passed by the Legislature and ultimately approved by the voters with 63% in favor (only 10% of registered voters cast a vote on the issue).

The Alachua County Library District has a \$19 million budget and levies a combined 1.4588 total district millage (1.3638 for operations and capital improvements and 0.0950 for bond debt). The District has one main library and 11 branch libraries. The District owns 10 of its 12 libraries, while renting the other two (one is rented for \$2,500/year and the other is \$6,500/month).

The Alachua County Library District participates in the County's health insurance plan and utilizes the County's purchasing, accounting, human resource, and county attorney functions (all at a cost to the District). It does have its own IT operations. The District participates in the Florida Retirement System (FRS) for new employees as of January 1, 2008. All employees prior to that date were members of the County Pension Plan and were given the option to stay in the County plan or move to FRS.

The Alachua County Library District's Governing Board is comprised of three members of the Board of County Commissioners of Alachua County, two members of the Gainesville City Commission, and one member of the Alachua County School Board (the school board member was added in 2003). The Governing Board has the power to adopt an annual budget, establish service levels, adopt a long range facilities and service plan, lease or purchase property, contract for services, receive grants, and take any other action necessary to provide public library services to the citizens of Alachua County.