



## Florida Library Association 2013 Award Recipients

### Lifetime Achievement

#### **Carole D. Fiore, Training & Library Consulting**

Carole Fiore's career of more than 30 years includes significant contributions to library services for youth in Florida and across the United States. She has consulted with scores of libraries and mentored countless youth librarians and she continues to be a presenter and trainer in high demand for her expertise in early literacy. Fiore has authored nationally recognized books and research studies and brought national initiatives *Born to Read* and *Prime Time* to Florida's libraries. She is respected for her leadership in the Association for Library Services to Children and for her service on numerous committees related to library services for children and youth.

### Librarian of the Year

#### **Carolynn Volz, Hodges University**

When the Southwest Florida Library Network was not able to fund its Executive Director position, Volz volunteered to serve as acting Executive Director, enabling the work of this multitype library cooperative to continue. She also oversaw the planning and construction of Hodges University's new library which opened in July 2012.

### Friends, Foundations and Boards Outstanding Member

#### **Shelia Leach, Friends of Martin County Library System**

Sheila Leach has contributed her business acumen, marketing expertise and fundraising skills in leading the Friends of the Martin County Library System. She lobbied successfully to secure funding and led sponsorship of special library events. Leach brought her skills as a consensus-builder to achieve the unification of six separate Friends groups, each of which had served a different library, into a central Friends organization for the Martin County Library System.

### Friends, Foundations and Boards Outstanding Member

#### **Iris L. Shalit, Friends of Largo Library**

As President of the Friends of Largo Library for nine years, Iris Shalit's work has mitigated the impact of budget reductions, kept libraries open on Sundays, and saved the popular countywide Short Story Contest. Under her leadership, the Friends of Largo Library earn \$90,000 annually in their book store, and in 2013, will sponsor an RFID system for the Library at a cost of more than \$225,000. Following her 20-year library career, Iris Shalit's leadership of the Friends is a tribute to her lifelong commitment.

**Best Booth, 2012 Conference**

**Unique Books, Inc.**

Unique Books Inc. was recognized at the beginning of the 2013 FLA conference for the company's booth at the 2012 event. Unique Books was selected for its attractive and engaging booth featuring a beach theme and for its staff's friendly, responsive service. Unique Books, Inc. is a long-time exhibitor at FLA conferences and illustrates the partnerships with the business community valued by the Florida Library Association.

**Library of the Year**

**Hernando County Public Library**

Hernando County Public Library was recognized for its significant growth in programming, partnerships, outreach, and marketing. The number of children's programs quadrupled and computer classes increased by 75%. Outreach programs were initiated at the YMCA, at pediatricians' offices, and at Saturday markets. The Library instituted a new strategic plan and a logo, branding and social media strategy that led to exponential growth in Twitter and Facebook activity.

**Libraries Mean Business**

**Clearwater Public Library**

Clearwater Public Library was honored for its services to the business community. To help long-term job seekers redefine themselves as emerging business entrepreneurs, the Library partnered with St. Petersburg College to develop Boot Camp 4 Entrepreneurs. This initiative included classes such as *Generating a Fab Idea*, *Promoting Your Product*, and *Catch the Social Media Marketing Wave for Your Biz* with a special emphasis on "Sales for Startups." Librarians added a series of classes called Tech Summit 4 Entrepreneurs to teach the public how to create website, use blogs, Facebook, Twitter, and other social media to market their new business.

**Betty Davis Miller Youth Services**

**Manatee County Public Library**

The Manatee County Public Library received the Betty Davis Miller Youth Services Award in recognition of its outstanding library services to youth. Mana-Con Comics Convention for Teens drew over 900 people, especially families with children and teens, to the Central Library in Bradenton for an all-day convention focusing on manga, anime, comics, Japanese culture, art, and books. The library partnered with local vendors, artists, teachers, volunteers, businesses and organizations, and national publishers to create this community event offering art workshops, drawing contests, martial arts demonstrations, kimono displays, kanji writing, face-painting, gaming, free comics and fabulous prizes.

### Library Innovation

#### Manatee County Public Library

The Library Innovation Award was presented to Manatee County Public Library for an array of activities focusing on community needs. The Library evaluated and expanded services based on priorities of those served, and eliminated ineffective programs. Among the innovations was a “Bright Ideas” Committee that encouraged staff to suggest innovations for improving procedures or for better reaching the public. Results included a money-saving way to handle reserve materials, a better way to organize equipment, simplified donation receipts, and a library coloring book. The library also expanded partnerships with area agencies, sister government divisions and businesses by creating “library nooks,” a series of study rooms scattered throughout government buildings. Internships sponsored by local educational institutions expanded library staff by bringing talented students to work at in the library while earning college credit. Videotaped author interviews and staff advocacy were among other innovations during the year.

### Exemplary Learning Design

#### Orange County Library System

Orange County Library System received the Exemplary Learning Design Award which recognizes good practice of sound design and implementation of learning in libraries. The Technology and Education Center of the Orange County Library System (OCLS) partnered with Work Force Central to develop the *Job Seeker Series*, a comprehensive program with workshops, reference books, online databases, booklets, and mock interviews in a supportive, “real world” learning environment. Free resources include computer training and classes such as *Resume Writing*, and *Social Networking Methods for Job Seekers*. The OCLS also offers a *Job Seeker Workshop* where patrons can work with one of more than 20 technology trainers.

### Youth Services Website

#### Orange County Library System

Orange County Library System (OCLS) was also recognized for its youth services website. In 2012 OCLS went live with a redesign of KidsConnect, a highly visual and interactive website. The architecture is dynamic and pulls information from existing sources to increase the efficiency of staff time in updating content. The website was built to maximize the user’s experience across multiple platforms, on tablets and mobile devices. The redesign referenced *Usability of Websites for Children* by the Nielsen Norman Group in identifying special techniques to make the website user-friendly for children.

**Public Library Website****Alachua County Library District**

The website of the Alachua County Library District is known as the “eBranch” and it’s truly “everybody’s branch” and accessible by all. The website provides a highly interactive user experience with multiple ways to contact the library for assistance, including the Ask US! System. The search box is featured prominently and the uniform layout framework of Drupal modules is used on each page to optimize navigation. Information is posted online by 75 employees. One of the unique local resources launched last year is the citation index to the *Gainesville Sun* newspaper from 1880s to 2007.

**2013 AWARDS PRESENTED TO FRIENDS OF LIBRARY GROUPS  
BY FLA’S MEMBER GROUP FOR FRIENDS, FOUNDATIONS AND BOARDS**

- **Newsletter Award - Friends of the Punta Gorda Library**
- **Outstanding Program Award - Friends of the Melrose Library Association**
- **Special Projects Award – Friends of the Fort Lauderdale Libraries**
- **Website Award - Friends of the Miramar Library**