
INTRODUCING LOGIC~

Local Government Information Center

by

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An innovative public service offered by the Broward County Main Library, **LOGIC** -- Local Government Information Center -- features a core collection of local documents dealing with contemporary issues and urban problems confronting Broward County's governmental divisions, departments, boards, and commissions; Broward County's twenty-nine municipalities; and quasi-governmental organizations and civic agencies involved in community services and local government research. Local government documents address a vast range of public policy issues. Among the types of documents acquired, indexed, and made available for ready access are annual, monthly, and quarterly reports; municipal and county codes and ordinances; minutes of commission and council proceedings; land use and engineering plans; budgets; consultants' studies; regional publications; and serials, pamphlets, and brochures. This medley of documents covers such topics as aviation, environmental quality, parks and recreation, solid waste, education, transportation, tourism, economic development, housing, water management, resource recovery, public works, disaster preparedness, local history, and historic preservation.

Inspired by the opening of the Broward County Main Library in downtown Fort Lauderdale on April 29, 1984, **LOGIC** is designed to serve the reference needs of county and municipal officials and their staffs, local industry, as well as all citizens of Broward who desire to make better informed decisions in a timely manner. Situated on the Broward County Main Library's fifth floor, **LOGIC** is part of the Government Documents Department, which also administers state, federal, and international publications.

A primary mission of **LOGIC** is to build the capacity of local citizenry and civic leaders to access both historical and up-to-date information on a variety of urban issues unique to Broward, one of Florida's fastest growing counties. While the need and the right of the public to be aware of what its government has accomplished and is doing is noncontroversial and basic, because of fragmentation of bibliographic sources and studies, individuals seeking information frequently do not know where to go in government or government-related agencies to secure answers to their questions. In spite of the proliferation of locally-generated information, access to

historic, timely, and area-specific research has been limited. **LOGIC** is meeting the challenge of making local information openly and readily available to the population served by the Broward County Main Library, establishing a cohesive collection of local documents, providing reference access to this increasingly important source of information, and facilitating effective referral to other persons or agencies once **LOGIC's** resources are exhausted. **LOGIC** is maintaining automated internal bibliographic control of its local government documents through the utilization of a micro-computer. Computer-generated checklists serve as the major means of reference access to the **LOGIC** collection.

In responding to the challenges posed by Broward County's unprecedented growth and an information revolution triggered by the electronic age, **LOGIC** participates in the *Urban Documents Program* developed by Greenwood Press. The *Urban Documents Program* includes the *Urban Documents Microfiche Collection* and the *Index To Current Urban Documents*, which offers multi-subject access to the *Urban Documents Microfiche Collection* and is the only national guide specifically devoted to local

government publications in the United States. Cities selected for full coverage in the *Urban Documents Program* generally include all municipalities with at least 100,000 residents as well as the counties and regions in which these municipalities are sited. Moreover, in addition to featuring documents issued by cities ranging from Albany, Georgia; Annapolis, Maryland; and Augusta, Maine, to Wheeling, West Virginia; White Plains, New York; and Wilmington, Delaware, the *Urban Documents Program* includes innovative local government projects and reports generated by smaller localities.

LOGIC also provides the specialized local government online service called *LOGIN (Local Government Information Network)*. An interactive information system featuring both a method of communicating with other municipalities

and counties, as well as an immense library of solutions, *LOGIN* includes state of the art information on how specific problems are being solved by other jurisdictions. Developed by Control Data Corporation, *LOGIN* enables subscribers to identify rapidly what other localities are doing to cut costs and improve services across an alphabetic range from *abandonment* to *zoning*. With local budgets shrinking and local problems becoming more complex, *LOGIN* is a cost-effective vehicle for local government officials to gather practical information from one knowledge base.

With the advent of *LOGIC*, Broward County's local government documents are no longer a hidden information bank, often dispersed, rarely filed and utilized, and seldom retained. Containing reports of agencies whose goals and functions are not cited elsewhere, detailed statistical data, and fre-

quently the major or only access to local activities, local government documents present a new dimension and enhanced perspective to the Broward County Main Library's reference and research collection. *LOGIC* ensures the ready accessibility of local government information for its clientele, provides factual information on demand, and serves as an information clearinghouse for local materials generated by local agencies and as a forum for information exchange. By incorporating local government-produced information into the mainstream of library services, the Local Government Information Center at the Broward County Main Library plays a pivotal role in communicating information of vital local significance to individual citizens and groups of citizens ranging from students, scholars, and urban managers to government staff, elected officials, and the general public.



Broward County's new \$22,000,000 Main Library features a number of innovative reference and bibliographic services. (Photo courtesy of the Broward County Library.)