

FLORIDA MULTITYPE LIBRARY COOPERATIVES (MLCS)

BY SARA HACK



The Tampa Bay Library Consortium, Inc. (TBLC) is a community of libraries and the people who work in them committed to collaboration and bettering Floridians' lives through continuously improving library services. TBLC supports this community's success by providing essential services, connecting staff through active engagement, and creating an environment of continuous learning and innovation. TBLC is a nonprofit Multitype Library Cooperative that assists and empowers over 120 libraries. All types of libraries – public, academic, school and specialized – are members.



SEFLIN (Southeast Florida Library Information Network), Inc. is one of the nation's largest multitype library cooperatives (MLC). SEFLIN member libraries/library systems represent more than 300 public, academic, and school libraries serving a culturally rich and diverse population of more than 6 million Floridians.

SEFLIN is known locally, regionally, and nationally as a leader in collaboratively planning and providing: a comprehensive continuing education program for library staff, the joint use of technology to expand library services, enhanced resource sharing opportunities between Southeast Florida libraries, administration and maintenance of the Florida Library Jobs website, and innovative projects such as social services in libraries and the Palace Project.



Southwest Florida Library Network (SWFLN) enhances and promotes library services in Charlotte, Collier, DeSoto, Hendry, and Lee counties through cooperative efforts, resource sharing, staff training and education, and exposure to emerging technologies.

SWFLN encourages interlibrary cooperation among all southwest Florida libraries, promotes professional networking and partnerships, monitors trends and innovations impacting libraries, assesses member needs, and designs learning opportunities to keep members informed and current. Programs and services include: staff development and training; Bits 'n Bytes to Borrow technology lending program; assistance with bibliographic maintenance; resource sharing support; professional network of library expertise.

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PLAN (Panhandle Library Access Network) provides training opportunities for library staff in the Florida Panhandle region and beyond. This training improves the ability of library staff to provide services to Floridians. Continuing Education events are available in multiple formats which include: Webinars, Workshops, Webinar recordings, Conferences (including the statewide ‘Florida Libraries Online Conference’ which all five MLCs combine to produce)

The PLAN Cooperative Purchasing Group provides participating libraries with significant cost-savings and access to a much larger collection of E-resources so library users enjoy a much larger selection of these resources than any individual library could afford on its own.



The Northeast Florida Library Information Network (NEFLIN) is a non-profit, multitype library cooperative. Established in 1992, NEFLIN’s members employ 2,720 staff at 550 public, academic, school and special libraries that serve over 4 million people.

Through grant funding and membership dues, NEFLIN provides members access to training, resource sharing, cooperative purchasing, research and development, partnerships for grant funding, leadership opportunities, and additional services through relationships with other organizations.

Visit www.neflin.org for more information about their programs and services.

