

PUBLIC LIBRARIES

Great resources

Public information is wonderful. But its power is limited when the public doesn't know the information exists.

Consider what you could be missing from the Florida Electronic Library at www.flelibrary.org.

In some cases, as with the American Heart Association Journals and Oxford University Press Journals, the page directs users to reliable reference sources that are free on the Internet.

In other cases, users can access expensive subscriber resources for free by plugging in their locally obtained public library card identification number.

Those resources include the Gale Encyclopedia of Medicine, which has details on medical disorders and treatments; the Business Index ASAP, which offers breaking news on business trends and executives; and Beacham's Guide to the Endangered Species of North America.

Mark Flynn, director of the Florida Electronic Library, noted such information comes from the most trusted

scholars, organizations and universities in the world.

The state just renewed its five-year contract with database provider Thomson Gale. Among the new features offered through the contract: LitFinder, a collection of thousands of full-text poems, short stories, essays, speeches and plays with biographies and pictures; and Kids InfoBits, which provides content geared toward students in grades kindergarten through fifth.

The Florida Electronic Library also provides a "live chat" feature with librarians from throughout the state who can help with homework questions and other research.

Even better, the service, coordinated by the Tampa Bay Library Consortium, is offered Sunday through Thursday from 10 a.m. to midnight. It's available on Fridays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Librarygoers who do not know about the Florida Electronic Library are missing out.

Explore it. Use it. Enjoy it.

Your tax dollars are paying for it.

PUBLIC LIBRARIES

Great resources

Public information is wonderful. But its power is limited when the public doesn't know the information exists.

Consider what you could be missing from the Florida Electronic Library at www.flelibrary.org.

In some cases, as with the American Heart Association Journals and Oxford University Press Journals, the page directs users to reliable reference sources that are free on the Internet.

In other cases, users can access expensive subscriber resources for free by plugging in their locally obtained public library card identification number.

Those resources include the Gale Encyclopedia of Medicine, which has details on medical disorders and treatments; the Business Index ASAP, which offers breaking news on business trends and executives; and Beacham's Guide to the Endangered Species of North America.

Mark Flynn, director of the Florida Electronic Library, noted such information comes from the most trusted

scholars, organizations and universities in the world.

The state just renewed its five-year contract with database provider Thomson Gale. Among the new features offered through the contract: LitFinder, a collection of thousands of full-text poems, short stories, essays, speeches and plays with biographies and pictures; and Kids InfoBits, which provides content geared toward students in grades kindergarten through fifth.

The Florida Electronic Library also provides a "live chat" feature with librarians from throughout the state who can help with homework questions and other research.

Even better, the service, coordinated by the Tampa Bay Library Consortium, is offered Sunday through Thursday from 10 a.m. to midnight. It's available on Fridays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Librarygoers who do not know about the Florida Electronic Library are missing out.

Explore it. Use it. Enjoy it.

Your tax dollars are paying for it.