

Patron Perspectives: Trips to the library gave me the assistance I needed.

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The Citrus County Library System (CCLS) wants all citizens to know about the many ways that using the library can improve their lives. Barbara Eyler uses all of the libraries in Citrus County for all of her information, education, and entertainment needs. This is what Barbara has to say about her *Library Memories* and experiences at the Citrus County Libraries.



One of my earliest memories as a child is going to our local library in Moundsville, West Virginia, to get books for my grandmother. Sug, as we called her, was an avid reader, going through at least two books a day. She would have us (my aunt or brother or sister) walk the five blocks to the local library once a week and get books for her. She never told us specific titles – she would say “Get me eight books from the Mystery section whose author’s name started with a B.” The next week, it would be the letter G or Y or something out of the New Releases section that looked like a mystery.

I inherited the love of reading from both my grandmother and my mother, getting my first library card when I was about six years old. Although my grandmother is long gone, at 78 years of age, Mom is still a faithful library patron. She taught me to pay any delinquent fines with a smile, since they helped keep the library doors open to everyone. She also said to never take change from the library – if my late fine was .25, to tell them to keep the other .75 as a contribution.

In 1985, I decided to learn to make quilts. I found lots of books on quilting at the library, which were invaluable. After my mom encouraged me to start genealogy research in 1999, more trips to the library gave me the assistance I needed.

When my husband and I moved to Citrus County in 2005, within a few weeks, I had found the local library branch in Crystal River and become a member. I even talked my 62 year spouse into getting his first ever library card so he could pick up books for me, which I had reserved using the on-line resource. He was amazed that he could find anything he wanted to read there and didn’t have to buy his books.

I probably read five books a week now, more if the weather is bad outside or I am on vacation. When I plan to travel, I go to the library and get audio books on CD to listen to on my trip.

A few years ago, my brother visited me when I lived in Lexington, South Carolina. He also loves reading and has a room in his house called his “library”. When he asked me where my library was, I just smiled. I told him I didn’t need a library at home, I have libraries all over the county and they had more books than he could ever fit in his tiny “library” at home.

~Barbara Eyler