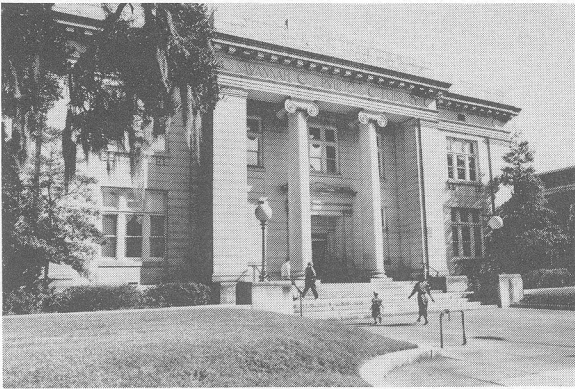


Chatham-Effingham-Liberty Regional Library



The Savannah Public Library was established in 1903 by a group of citizens who saw the need for a lending library in Savannah. The first book collection was housed in one room in the Georgia Historical Society building and contained 23,000 volumes.

The library on Bull Street was opened for use in 1916. It was furnished largely with a grant from the Andrew Carnegie Foundation. The building seemed quite spacious when it opened, but was badly overcrowded when a book stack wing was added in 1936. Thirty years later, the congestion had grown serious, and in 1966 the Bull Street Library was expanded to two and one-half times its original size.

In 1945, Effingham County Library joined Savannah Public Library to form Chatham-Effingham Regional Library, and in 1956, the regional library was expanded to include Liberty County, establishing Chatham-Effingham-Liberty Regional Library. In 1963, the Library for the Colored Citizens of Savannah came under the auspices of Chatham-Effingham-Liberty Regional Library. The building on East Henry Street that housed this library had also been built with assistance from the Andrew Carnegie Foundation, making Savannah one of the few cities in the country with two Carnegie libraries.

Today, the Bull Street Library, eighteen branches and one bookmobile provide over 500,000 books, periodicals, sound recordings, videotapes, microforms, CD-ROM resources, and Internet access to residents of Chatham, Effingham and Liberty Counties. The mission of Chatham-Effingham-Liberty Regional Library is to be a resource center of staff and materials, serving all residents of the Chatham-Effingham-Liberty Regional Library service area.

