

# Miami Herald

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## OPINION

### THE READERS' FORUM

#### FUND LIBRARIES

The Miami-Dade County Public Library System has been recognized nationally for excellence thanks to its director, Raymond Santiago. With his retirement, which he announced this week, and years of consecutive budget reductions resulting in massive service cuts, our libraries are at a crossroads.

Only a community that is committed to maintaining world-class libraries will attract innovative leadership. Friends of Miami-Dade Public Library and the Coalition to Save our Libraries calls on the county's government to restore the library budget to \$64 million and to mount a national search to find a new director, someone who will lead us forward to a 21st-century library system of excellence that a world-class city like Miami deserves.

— John Quick, president,  
Friends of Miami-Dade  
Public Library, Miami