

[Former librarian found dead in Death Row cell](#)

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BROWARD COUNTY - A former Broward County librarian who killed two ex-girlfriends in attacks almost two decades apart died Monday morning on Florida's Death Row.

William Coday, 51, bled to death in his cell at Union Correctional Institution in Raiford from what are being called self-inflicted wounds, said one of his attorneys, George Reres. Coday had a history of suicidal behavior and had attempted to kill himself while awaiting trial at the Broward County Jail.

The Florida Department of Corrections is investigating Coday's death, but cannot disclose how he died, said Jo Ellyn Rackleff, a department spokeswoman. He was found dead in his cell at 2:42 a.m.

Coday was on Death Row for the July 1997 murder of ex-girlfriend Gloria Gomez — a frenzied killing in which he used a hammer to beat her and when that broke, he used a second hammer and a knife. She was stabbed 41 times, cut 46 times and suffered 57 blunt injuries. Gomez was alive for all but the last of the hammer blows and stab wounds, according to forensic evidence at his trial.

The crime occurred almost 20 years after Coday used a shoemaker's hammer to beat to death his ex-girlfriend Lisa Hullinger in Hamburg, Germany, where the two Americans were students. His attorney in that case used an insanity defense and he was sentenced to three years in prison. He was released after 15 months behind bars and sent back to the United States with orders to get psychiatric help. He got some help but dropped out, partly because of the cost, he said.

The bespectacled Coday later got a job as a foreign languages librarian at the Broward County Main Library in Fort Lauderdale. Colleagues described him as mild-mannered and soft-spoken, fluent in five languages. It was at the library that he met Gomez, who had immigrated from Colombia.