

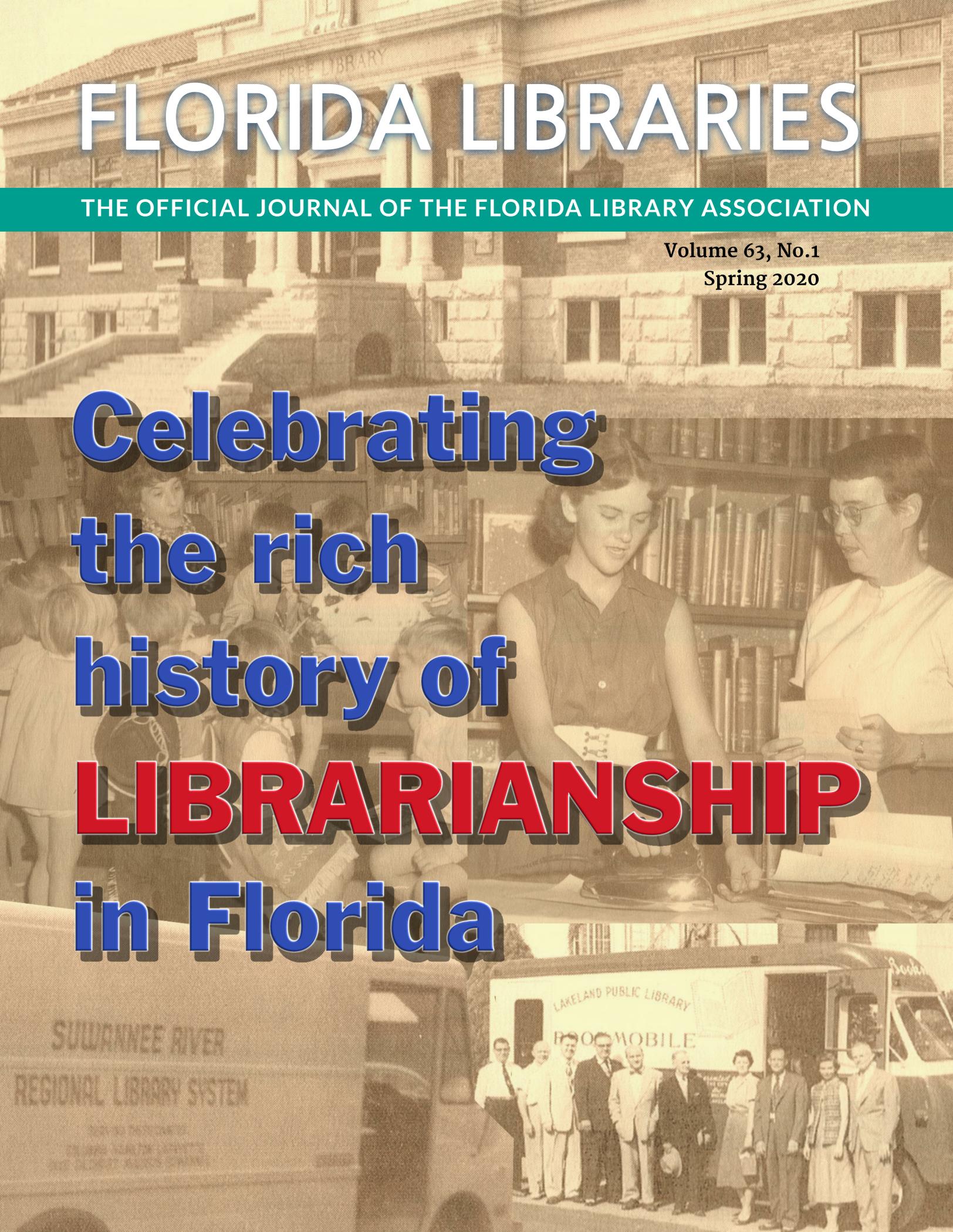
FLORIDA LIBRARIES

THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE FLORIDA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Volume 63, No.1

Spring 2020

Celebrating the rich history of **LIBRARIANSHIP** in Florida



TMC Furniture & Creative Library Concepts Offering Solutions for Library Needs



Teaming up with industry leaders Quinn Evans and Henrico County Public Library to develop dynamic design aesthetic while supporting the needs of library patrons and creating solutions to real-life issues.

CHRIS CUNNINGHAM PHOTOGRAPHY

Fairfield Area Library - Fairfield Parent+Child Carrel

The Fairfield Parent+Child Carrel offers a convenient spot for parents to work while their babies or toddlers are next to them in a safe and stimulating TMC LearnPLAY environment.



For more information:

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Students in the Library of the Florida State College for Women, Tallahassee, 1903.

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2019-2020
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Mission Statement:

The Florida Library Association is a statewide organization that promotes excellence in Florida libraries by advocating strongly for libraries and providing high quality professional and leadership development for a diverse community of library staff, volunteers, and supporters.

Vision:

The Florida Library Association champions strong, indispensable, user-focused Florida libraries that exceed the expectations of the communities and constituents they serve.

Lisa O' Donnell, CAE, Executive Director

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Florida Libraries is published two times/year (Spring, Fall) and is a benefit of FLA membership. FLA began publication in 1927, which has evolved into the present *Florida Libraries*.

Florida Libraries Copy should be submitted by email to journal@flalib.org. You are encouraged to include press-ready digital photos (300 p.p.i.) and graphics with your articles, which will be included on a space-available basis.

From the Editor



As I write this edition's editorial, like many of you, I am looking out the window of my own house, in week 4 of quarantining at home. Life from just a month ago is completely changed, and what comes next is still unclear. I hope all are

well and safe and doing their best to cope with the strains that this spring has presented to us. As you are reading this, I hope we are all adjusting to a new normal, whatever that might look like.

When restrictions began, initially there were calls to keep libraries open so that the public would still be able to access library services in person. And while I will always agree that libraries are an essential part of the fabric of every community, it is equally true that library workers should not feel obligated to put their lives, and their families lives, at risk, especially during an

**we're all
in this
together**

unprecedented global pandemic. The American Library Association and Florida Library Association, among others, made strong and necessary statements on the safety of library workers and the importance of keeping them safe by closing libraries.

Despite the health emergency we find ourselves in, work continues in our communities and statewide at FLA. The conference has been postponed until October 28-30, but fortunately our speakers, Eric Klinenberg and Rich Harwood, are available during the new dates so the program will remain very similar to what was originally planned. In this issue, I have written a review of our One Book One State selection, *Dare to Lead*, by Brene Brown. If you haven't read it yet, I hope you will. It is a warm and encouraging description

of empathetic leadership. See more on page 40.

Also in this edition, I invite you to become a part of our planned peer review process, either as a writer or reviewer. Our journal is already an excellent source of information and encouragement from our colleagues across the state. We hope to expand our journal to provide an opportunity for Florida librarians to see their original scholarship published and thus available to many more who will benefit from it. We also will need colleagues who are able and interested in reviewing articles and providing feedback. Read more about it on page 9.

Finally, this year we celebrate our centennial! One hundred years of the Florida Library Association is a proud heritage. See our special section, pages 20 to 23.

Again, I hope this edition finds all of you well and healthy. I am writing at the start of Library Week, and there are glimmers that we may be turning the corner soon. I look forward to seeing you all in October, and I invite you to reach out to me anytime.

All the best,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Karen Urbec'.

Karen Urbec
Florida Libraries Editor

For any comments or questions, please contact Karen Urbec at journal@flalib.org

From Your President



First, I would like to say that it has truly been an honor to serve as your president over the past year. When I began my term in May of 2019, I was full of excitement. Amazing ideas were flowing in all directions. Energy was high and enthusiasm about the future was strong. My perspective today has not changed, even in the face of our current crises and response to a pandemic. Really? Yes, I will explain.

Last summer when I wrote about our theme for the year and Leading Forward, no one could have imagined what was ahead of us. When I spoke of stepping out of our comfort zones, I had no idea how much I would be forced out of my own. Due to current conditions, we are all in uncharted territory, seeking leadership and guidance that we can trust and searching for an appropriate path for how and when to move ahead.

Given all of these challenges, I find it helpful not to lose sight of what we have accomplished, and because of it, the future of our Association will be strong and vibrant for years to come. This past year, through the hard work of many, we have been able to establish some key foundational elements that set the stage for future success.

The strategic planning task force that met in Orlando along with the Board, FLA staff and a great facilitator, laid out a plan that will take our association in a very positive direction over the next few years. It will help us to create a stronger, more resilient and sustainable FLA that will be here to support many future generations of Florida Librarians. Please visit the website, review the plan, ask questions and continue to get involved. That is the best way to ensure that your voice is heard, and actions continue to be taken that lead us forward.

Library Day in Tallahassee has been reinvented and is better than ever. This is a testament to the amazing work of our Executive Director Lisa O'Donnell and the support of the FLA staff, Karen Layton and Melissa Stocks. While we didn't achieve all of our funding goals this year, it was a tremendous success where new relationships were built, and inroads developed that will pay dividends in the future. We must continue to strengthen our collective voice and push for the resources that are justly needed for all of Florida's libraries.

At the heart of our association is the committees and members that work diligently throughout the year on a myriad of initiatives, projects, and tasks that have an important impact on the success of FLA. Each year we get to see the results and hear the stories at the annual conference in May. As you all know that has been rescheduled for late October and we will all be looking forward to hearing about their accomplishments.



The same is true for all the 2020 FLA Award winners featured in this issue. Celebrating and promoting the amazing accomplishments of our libraries, librarians, and those that support us is such an important part of the stories of success we share each year at conference. We will ensure this happens and that everyone is properly recognized for their contributions to our profession.



So, considering where we are now, and where we are headed, I am still full of excitement. Throughout the Association, amazing ideas continue to flow in all directions and the energy, while certainly in shorter supply, will undoubtedly rebound. I know this to be true because if I've learned anything over the years, it is that libraries are resilient. That is made possible by the incredible people that work in them, continually striving to make things better for the profession and the communities they serve. While all of us have certainly had our worlds turned upside down, I cannot help but see possibilities and opportunities that are just around the corner. We can choose to view things with a realistic optimism that points to a positive future, not because of an unsupported, rose-colored glasses view of the world, but rather knowing that ultimately, hard work and commitment always wins.

Thinking ahead, it is without question that our State will continue to grow, and we will be called on to adjust for the many challenges and opportunities that will bring. We still face the immediate threats of the pandemic and the resulting uncertainty for the fiscal future of libraries everywhere. Additionally, each of us will undoubtedly face challenges and obstacles to our own path. There is no better time to get out in front, with hope and enthusiasm for the future, and continue Leading Forward.



In closing I want to thank our incoming President Laura Spears for graciously pausing on the announcement of a new theme for 2020-2021, allowing

us to carry on with our current theme of Leading Forward, bringing it to a completion at the rescheduled conference in October. I also want to extend my sincere appreciation and gratitude to all my fellow members of the FLA Board. I cannot imagine a more supportive, engaged, and dynamic group of professionals that has made this a productive and successful year, allowing my term as president to be a pleasant and memorable experience. Thank you all very much.

Sincerely,

Eric C. Head
2019-2020 President
Florida Library Association

From Your Executive Director

By: Lisa O'Donnell, CAE



This is an historic year. As I began writing this piece in March, I never imagined just how historic. While we're all grappling with a new normal for the foreseeable future, it's important to remember how resilient we are, and how FLA has withstood the test of time.

FLA is celebrating its 100-year anniversary in 2020. My word, what this association has been witness to over the last century. When I look back to the year 1920, I'm reminded that one of the most significant changes to the fabric of our United States occurred the same year that Miss Helen Virginia Stelle called for a meeting of FLA and reorganized the association. Four short months later, in August of 1920, Miss Stelle, and all women in the U.S., were finally granted the right to vote with the ratification of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.



Photo by [Birmingham Museums Trust](#) on [Unsplash](#)

I'm in awe of the women (and men) who blazed trails and fought injustice so that I might have the choices I have today. If not for Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Lucy Stone, the relentless campaigns for women's suffrage likely would have stalled in the early 20th century. And, if not for the amazing succession of women leaders at FLA, both elected

officers and staff, I could not successfully carry this FLA banner forward.

One hundred years after the 19th

Amendment was passed and ratified, I'm grateful to those women who came before me and forged pathways that were previously inaccessible.

Recent events have reminded us of the darker parallels that can be drawn between two centuries. One hundred years ago, the U.S. and the world were deep in the throes of a crippling health pandemic, the infamous Spanish Flu outbreak of

1918-1920. Similarly, today, we read daily updates about the spread of the Coronavirus across our globe. Our hearts break for those lost and we collectively hold our breath as we wait for news updates and determine our next steps.

The wonderful thing about history is that we can learn from it. The positive advances in medicine and disease containment are vast. Our response should rely on facts and thoughtful approaches. To that end, the FLA Board of Directors took the unprecedented step of rescheduling the Annual Conference from May to October. We know many of you are still unsure about your attendance at the Annual Conference, even several months prior. We know the Annual Conference in October will look a bit different as we incorporate new processes and methods of service. We may have fewer attendees and wider spaces between you at sessions. But we also know that FLA is completely dedicated to ensuring your safety at our events and we are continually assessing the best tools and processes for our beloved Annual Conference, including some virtual elements. Much more to come.

We hope all of our FLA friends are staying safe. We're thinking about you and we truly can't wait to see you in person again!



Image by [hurufa](#) from [Pixabay](#).

Peer Review is coming to Florida Libraries! Join us!

By: Karen Urbec

Are you researching an article, but haven't decided where to publish it? Did you give a great presentation and wish it could reach a larger audience? Or maybe you have an area of expertise that you'd like to share with the larger library community. Whether you're hoping to publish an article or looking to become a peer reviewer, soon you will be able to look to these pages.

We are still finalizing our procedures and processes, but we plan to use the open review format for our peer-reviewed articles. This means that articles that are submitted will be reviewed, the reviewer's comments will be sent to the writer, and the writer will have a chance to reply to the reviewer's comments. When published, readers will see all three parts—original article, review, and response. In this way, readers will see the progression of the review and will experience it as a conversation; a conversation they can participate in by adding to the fourth part—reader comments that are submitted online after publication. Our hope is that this method will provide an arena where we can share ideas and co-create in an open and collaborative style.

Other peer review methods are done privately. The writer receives the critiques of the reviewers and then edits (or not!) their original manuscript. What is published is the blend of writer and reviewers views and work. But our thought is that an open process, that shows the recommended changes and responses, will be more accessible and instructive to readers.

So, are you ready to get involved? There are several opportunities for you to be part of the process. First, start writing! It could be the article you keep meaning to finish, or the conference presentation you just gave, or a personal research topic you need the motivation to finally pull together. Whatever your situation, we aim to be a venue for Florida librarians to find their voice and see their scholarly work in print. The deadline for our Fall edition for peer-reviewed article is August 1st. Please consider submitting your work for publication in our state-wide journal. More details and a friendly reminder will be sent in early summer.

Next, we will need reviewers. To be a reviewer you should be willing and able to read and thoughtfully review journal articles, and respond with a written reply, and on deadline. More details will be forthcoming in the summer, but if you are interested, do not hesitate to let me know!

I look forward to this growth and development of our journal, and am eager to read our first articles and to work with our panel of reviewers! For any questions, you can reach Karen Urbec at journal@flalib.org.

Open Review Format





**Creating a welcoming environment.
Taking the lead in our own community and library.
Encouraging others and building a culture that inspires.**

**REGISTER
TODAY**

**Lead with us at 2020 FLA Annual Conference
October 28 - October 30**

**DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel at the Entrance to Universal Orlando, FL
5780 Major Blvd, Orlando, FL 32819**

2020 FLA Awards

Presented by the 2019-2020 FLA Awards Committee

Overall Achievement

Librarian of the Year

Andrew Breidenbaugh, Director
Tampa-Hillsborough County Public Library

Under Andrew Breidenbaugh's energetic leadership and commitment to an evolving library, THPL found new, effective ways to remove barriers to library resources. Andrew's collaboration with local government and library stakeholders enabled access to every school-aged child in Hillsborough County, welcomed back 15,000 customers shut out from the library's resources by fines, made library technology available to every resident regardless of account status and expanded service to underserved populations. Andrew spearheaded THPL's strategic planning process, resulting in a new staffing model, yielding \$1 million in savings with no jobs lost.

Library of the Year

Broward County Library

A host of new initiatives and projects are bringing Broward County Library's services and resources to unusual and unexpected places, including an airport, parks, and ports. These investments have generated significant increases in usage of the library's electronic services and attendance at libraries and programs in FY2019. Increases included growth in the following: 5.4% in total circulation; 7.9% in new library cards; 8.6% in number of programs; and 13.5% in attendance. The biggest investment in this initiative is the willingness by BCL staff to realize that library services for all, the sky – and land and sea – is not the limit.

Outstanding New Librarian

Lily Jade Dubach
University of Central Florida

Lily Dubach's passion for student success is evident in her work in the classroom, efforts with textbook affordability, many publications and conference presentations, outreach efforts on multiple campuses, and development of new library workshops. Lily identified a need to reach out to UCF's new program for students with learning disabilities, designing a new book club to invite these students to experience library resources. She has taken on leadership roles within the library, the FLA, and the University. Lily is that rare librarian who not only does her job exceptionally well, but also serves as an ambassador for the profession.

Outstanding Paraprofessional

Mary Renee Galloway, Hope Place Branch Manager & Library Associate
Volusia County Public Library

Mary Renee Galloway is the representation of a 21st century paraprofessional. Mary demonstrates consistency in quality performance and expertise as manager of a small branch, as a leader in youth services programming, and as a mentor to her peers. Her readiness to redefine her role has taken her from student worker to library assistant to library associate. She networks with her peers and serves as an on-boarding mentor for other paraprofessionals. She has taken a student worker job and forged it into a career where she successfully leads from the middle- impressing peers, colleagues, subordinates, and administrators.

Embodiment of Values and Ideals

Intellectual Freedom Award

Prison Letter Program
Clearwater Public Library System

The Clearwater Public Library System's Prisoner Letter Program answers basic reference questions and provides research assistance to prison inmates throughout Florida. The program works to fulfill the needs of an underserved population. The Prison Letter Program provides outreach to incarcerated persons and receives between fifty to eighty letters a month from more than 35 State Correctional Facilities. With the belief that the core values of intellectual freedom and librarianship should benefit all Floridians, Clearwater Public Library System gladly provides information access for inmates.

Library Innovation

The Project Welcome
Broward County Library

The Project Welcome was created to welcome newcomers and English language learners, inform them of Broward County Library's important resources and support them on their path towards literacy, economic prosperity and a sense of belonging. The target population for Project Welcome is Broward's Spanish, Haitian Creole, and Portuguese-speakers, as approximately 31 percent of Broward residents speak one of these three languages. Ensuring the success of Project Welcome, BCL collaborated with a number of community and public organizations. Additionally, marketing and library resources were translated into the target languages and Amazon Echo devices are at public service desks to provide customers with assistance in a variety of languages.

Maria Chavez-Hernandez "Libraries Change Peoples' Lives"

Tampa Hillsborough County Public Library

Tampa-Hillsborough County Public Library (THPL) supports adult learners through English

language and basic literacy tutoring in partnership with the Hillsborough Literacy Council and citizenship classes facilitated by community partners. Each year over 100 active volunteers offer 3,000 hours of instruction. In 2019, THPL expanded its citizenship classes with the support of a \$10,000 American Dream Literacy Initiative grant, incorporating tablets to make the sessions more engaging while building technology skills and familiarizing students with the online testing format. 100% of students said they learned something helpful and intend to apply what they learned.

Excellence in a Field of Endeavor

Betty Davis Miller Youth Services Award (Early Learning)

Mandel Public Library of West Palm Beach

"Let's Read" is a volunteer-based reading program established by the Mandel Public Library of West Palm Beach. The program encourages a love of reading by training adult volunteer mentors to bring story times into academically struggling Title 1 elementary schools and pre-schools. It is designed to help children in preschool through second grade develop a love of reading. Let's Read volunteers share stories and rhymes, distribute library cards and gift books, encourage library use and support reading at home. Since 2003, over 500 volunteers have visited over 550 classrooms to share 4,850 hours of literacy rich story times.

Betty Davis Miller Youth Services Award (Teens)

Suwannee River Regional Library

There are few programs in the Suwannee River Regional Library's rural community for teens not interested in team sports. The library teen programs offer opportunities for teens to meet, share, create and cooperate in a safe environment. Teen programs are bringing in youth that may not have visited. The programs provide educational and character-building aspects designed to inspire teens to read about and explore different hobbies, art forms, games

and occupations. These programs encourage teamwork, problem solving, creative thinking, focus under pressure, time management and respect for others, and incorporate new books and media through displays and projects.

Excellence in Marketing and Public Relations

Broward County Library

The Broward County Library collaborated with the Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport (FLL) in Fort Lauderdale to open the Broward County FLLibrary, a satellite library location in the airport featuring the latest in streaming media technology. The project was a partnership between Broward County Libraries and the Broward County Aviation Department. Broward County Aviation was eager to create a comfortable and eye-catching space for visitors and provide a venue to promote library services to the 36 million domestic and international travelers passing through the airport.

Exemplary Instructional Programs or Services

Homework Help and Tutoring Program
Miami-Dade Public Library System

The Miami-Dade Public Library System's Homework Help and Tutoring Program promotes literacy and learning by providing certified teachers who meet with small groups of students in one-hour sessions to provide free homework help and tutoring in reading, math and science. To date, the program has provided 40,432 tutoring sessions to students from some of the highest need areas in Miami-Dade County. The program inspires all children to a lifelong love of learning and supports student achievement in a safe and nurturing learning environment.

Libraries Mean Business

Tampa-Hillsborough County Public Library

Tampa-Hillsborough County Public Library (THPL) promotes economic development through resources, programs, and partnerships that empower small businesses and entrepreneurs. THPL facilitates this through a

partnership with the Entrepreneur Collaborative Center (ECC), leading to strong relationships with other community organizations. Since 2016, THPL has engaged with 1,135 people through 57 classes and 684 reference hours at the ECC, 1,639 through outreach at business events, and over 3,500 through expert-led business classes in library branches. 96% of customers surveyed report learning something helpful, 96% intend to apply what they learned, and 93% are more aware of library resources and services.

Outstanding Scholarly Contribution

Makiba Foster, Librarian
Broward County Library

Makiba Foster's "Navigating Library Collections, Black Culture, and Current Events," published in the Summer 2018 issue of *Library Trends* (Johns Hopkins University Press) creatively and concisely examines the importance of library archives and collections in preserving and documenting the Black experience in the United States. Her article underlines the importance of public libraries' incorporation of historical literacy as an enhancement of information and how historical literacy encourages a higher level of engagement by relating historical library collections to the issues of today.

Outstanding Citizen

Friends, Foundations & Boards Outstanding Member

Cyndi Bloom, President
Board of the Friends of the Boca Raton Public Library

Cyndi Bloom is committed to the mission of the Boca Raton Public Library. Cyndi has been a member of the Friends for 12 years and President for 6 years. During that period, Cyndi has led the Friends in numerous projects to raise library awareness and money to endow the two Boca Raton Public Libraries with funds to enhance their facilities and serve the community. Her leadership and advocacy has directly resulted in the donation of \$127,000 to the library for purchase of the library mobile van and raising nearly \$250,000 over 5 years for the library.

Outstanding Business/Media Partner

Norton Museum of Art
Palm Beach County Library System

Since 2016, the Norton Museum of Art has served as a major business partner to the Palm Beach County Library System by collaborating on community events that bring the literary and visual arts together. Well over 1,500 community members have participated in this cooperative effort over the years, having garnered funding, in part, by the Florida Humanities Council in 2019. This multifaceted partnership serves as a model for libraries and art museums who want to reach new communities in new and innovative ways.

Outstanding Citizen

Mary Lindsey
Lake Worth Beach Public Library

The City of Lake Worth Beach Little Free Library program is a partnership between local residents led by Mary Lindsey and the Lake Worth Public Library to make sure every resident in the City of Lake Worth Beach is within walking distance of a well-stocked little free library. The driving force is local resident Mary Lindsey who is easily recognized at events by the large group of children surrounding her cheering "Take a Book, Leave a Book!" With over 100, Lake Worth Beach now has more Little Free Libraries per capita than any community in the world.



Special Projects Award

Little Free Library
Friends of the Lighthouse Point Library

In 2019 Makena Vargo, Library Teen Advisory Board Member of the Doreen Gauthier Lighthouse Point Library, collaborated with the Friends of the Lighthouse Point Library and created the first Little Free Library on city

property. A fundraising goal of \$1800 was set in order to complete the project and over a 7-month period, the Friends and Makena superseded their goal and raised \$2,855! The Little Free Library, which is registered with the global Little Library Foundation, was recognized by the city's mayor and Florida Governor DeSantis. This book-sharing venture, designed and painted by Makena, is the perfect opportunity to encourage reading and promote the Lighthouse Point Library.



Lighthouse Point resident and high school junior Makena Vargo (center holding plaque) at the unveiling ceremony of the Little Free Library in Dan Witt Park./ Photo courtesy of Lighthouse Point Library

Friends Newsletter of the Year

Friends of the Library of Alachua County

The Library and its Friends is an engaging and informational quarterly newsletter produced by a committee of volunteers from the Friends of the Library of Alachua County (FOL). For the past seven years, content has included highlights from various programs hosted by this active group and features original photographs with bright colors and concise writing. It also includes Alachua County Library District (ACLD) programs and branch events as well as local area events of interest such as literacy and reading. The number of new and renewing FOL members, continued donations from the community and a good rapport with ACLD librarians and support staff can be attributed to this well-received publication.

Support the Future of our Profession by Supporting FLA Scholarships

By: Stephanie Race on behalf of the FLA Fundraising and Scholarship Committees

The Florida Library Association (FLA) Scholarship Program is an important way for the membership to support the new students who are the future of our profession. Each year, the FLA Scholarship and Fundraising Committees work diligently to raise funds that make it possible to provide scholarships to deserving Florida residents who are committed to working in a Florida library after graduation. Thanks to the dedication and hard work of committee members and the generosity of the FLA membership, \$5,188 was raised at the 2019 Conference. Another \$3,000 was contributed to the Scholarship Program through the efforts of the Past Presidents.

To allow members of the Scholarship Committee to focus on recruiting applicants for the scholarships and selecting scholarship recipients, fundraising activities are being transitioned to the Fundraising Committee. The Fundraising Committee will concentrate on increasing the reserves to support scholarships long-term.

In 2019-2020, the Fundraising Committee will develop a sustainable fundraising model. Fundraising activities at the annual conference will focus on expanding the always-intoxicating wine toss and the 50/50 chance drawing. During the transition between committees, the return on investment of the Silent Auction will be evaluated and it will not be held during the 2020 conference.

The Scholarship and Fundraising Committees are committed to working together to support the future of our profession!

Ways you can support the FLA Scholarship Program:



* Encourage outstanding students to apply for a scholarship

* Donate directly to the Scholarship Program -
<https://fla.memberclicks.net/donate>

Donate

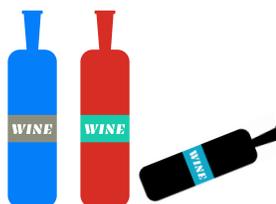


* Bring bottles of wine to the Annual Conference in October 2020

* Purchase 50/50 chance drawing tickets



* Test your skills at the the wine toss during the President's Reception in October 2020



Membership Matters

2020 FLA Organizational Members

Broward College
Broward County Library
Charlotte County Library System
Clearwater Public Library System
College of Central Florida
Collier County Public Library
Daytona State College
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University-Hunt Library
Everglades University
Florida Academic Library Services Cooperative
Florida Atlantic University Library
Florida International University
Florida National University
Florida State University, Strozier Library
Full Sail University
Gadsden County Public Library
Gulf Beaches Public Library
Hodges University Library
Lake County Library System
Lake Worth Public Library
Largo Public Library
Lee County Library System
Library and Information Resources Network, Inc.
Lighthouse Point Library
Lynn University Library
Maitland Public Library
Manatee County Public Library
Mandel Public Library of West Palm Beach
Miami-Dade Public Library System
New River Public Library Cooperative
North Florida South Georgia Veterans Health System
North Miami Beach Public Library
Orange County Library System
Osceola Library System - Hart Memorial Library
PAL Public Library Cooperative
Palm Beach County Library System
Palm Harbor Library
Panhandle Public Library Cooperative System
Pinellas Public Library Cooperative
Riviera Beach Public Library
Sanibel Public Library District
Santa Rosa County Public Library
Sarasota County Library System
Seminole County Public Library
Seminole Tribe of Florida - Library Program
Southeast Florida Library Information Network
South Florida State College
St. Lucie County Library System
St. Petersburg Library System
State College of Florida Libraries
Sumter County Library
Tallahassee Community College
Tampa-Hillsborough County Public Library
The Society of the Four Arts
Three Rivers Regional Library
University of South Florida
Volusia County Library Support Center
Washington County Public Library
Webber International University

* Current members at time of publication

Membership Matters

2020 FLA Friends, Foundations, Boards & Nonprofit Members

Broward Public Library Foundation
Chad Di Stefano, Board Member: MDPLS
Circle of Friends of the Gulfport Library Inc.
Dunedin Friends of the Library
Florida Authors & Publishers Association
Florida Humanities Council
Friends of Deltona Library
Friends of East Lake Community Library
Friends of Fort Myers Library
Friends of Fruitville Public Library
Friends of Library ACLD
Friends of Pine Island Library
Friends of the Bay County Public Libraries
Friends of the Boca Raton Public Library, Inc.
Friends of the Broward County African-American
Research Library and Cultural Center, Inc.
Friends of the Broward County Library, Inc.
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Friends of the Coastal Region Library
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Friends of the Deerfield Beach Percy White Library
Friends of the Gulf Gate Library
Friends of the Hugh Embry Branch Library of Pasco
County
Friends of the Jacksonville Public Library
Friends of the Key West Library

Friends of the Largo Library, Inc.
Friends of the LeRoy Collins Leon County Public
Library
Friends of the Library at City Island- Daytona Beach
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Friends of the Library of Hernando Co., Inc.
Friends of the Library of Tampa-Hillsborough
County, Inc.
Friends of the Main Library St. Augustine
Friends of the Middleburg-Clay Hill Library
Friends of the Nature Coast Lakes Region Library
Friends of the North Sarasota Library
Friends of the Okeechobee County Public Library
Friends of the Pace Area Library
Friends of the Palm Beach County Library
Friends of the Seminole Library
Friends of the Stirling Road Branch Library
Friends of the Suntree-Viera Public Library
Friends of the Wilton Manors Library
Friends of the Taylor County Public Library
Friends of Venice Public Library
Library Foundation for Sarasota County
Melrose Library Association, Inc.
Palmetto Friends of the Library
Sanibel Public Library Foundation, Inc.

* Current members at time of publication

Membership Matters

2020 FLA Business Members



* Current members at time of publication

Membership Matters

FLA Member Search

FLA makes it easy to find and connect with hundreds of library staff from across the state through its online **Member Search**. This valuable member benefit features several search filter options including name, organization, city and by library type. Go to www.flalib.org, log into your account and network today!

The screenshot displays the FLA Member Search interface. At the top left is the Florida Library Association logo. To its right is a 'Member Logout' button and a search bar. Below the logo is a dark blue navigation bar with links for 'FLA & COVID-19', 'About', 'Membership', 'Career Center', 'Advocacy', 'Programs & Events', and 'Connect'. A dropdown menu is open under 'Connect', listing 'My Account', 'Member Search', 'Member Directory', 'Member Groups', 'Committee Information', 'FLA Strategic Plan 2020-2022', and 'Join the FLA Listserv'. The main content area contains a search form with the following fields: 'Name First', 'Name Last', 'Organization', and 'Address Primary City'. Below these is a 'Library Type' section with radio button options: Academic, Public, School, Special, Library School/Program, Network/Consortia, Friends, and Association. At the bottom of the form are 'Clear' and 'Search' buttons. The footer includes the text: '© Florida Library Association, 545 E. Tennessee St. #100-D, Tallahassee, FL 32308, United States, 850 - 270 - 9205'. Social media icons for Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram are also present, along with a 'Back to top' link.

The History of the Florida Library Association is a Story of Service, Devotion, and Hard Work

By: Karen Urbec

Looking back on 100 years of the Florida Library Association it becomes clear that for over a century, Florida has had passionate and hardworking librarians dedicated to strengthening our communities through literacy, intellectual freedom, and service. While it is nearly impossible to give a complete history of all that librarians have accomplished in this essay, a few notable highlights will tell at least part of the story.

The oldest public library in Florida was organized in St. Augustine in 1874, and the state benefited from Andrew Carnegie's library-building, with 10 public libraries and 4 academic libraries built throughout the state between 1901 and 1917.

Charter Members in order in which they signed at
Orlando, Fla. April 26, 1920.

Louise Richardson, Librarian	Fla. State College,	Tallahassee
May Chance Lewis	Assist. Librarian	Tampa, Fla.
Fattie Frost	Cataloguer & Chief Loan	
J.F. Marron	Dept. Pub. Lib.	Jacksonville
Louise E. Gansby	Librarian Pub. Lib.	Jacksonville
S.S. Green	Trustee Pub. Lib.	Ocala
Frankie A. Howze	Palmetto Pub. Lib.	Bartow
Mrs. Ellen J. Wilson	S. Cornelia Young Mem. Lib.	Daytona Beach
Emma Moore Williams	Librarian Pub. Lib.	St. Petersburg
Public Library	Free Public Library	DeLand, Fla.
Gertrude E. Mann		Orange City, Fla.
Ruth Whitaker		Dunedin, Fla.
Elizabeth Skinner		Dunedin, Fla.
Dunedin Lib. Assoc. (by Pres.)		Oviedo, Fla.
Mrs. Theodore L. Mead	Public Library	Cocoa, Fla.
Mrs. J. D. Rafford	Treas. Cocoa Lib. Assoc.	
Mrs. Ford H. Rogers	Assist. Librarian	Ocala Fla.
	Member of the Board	Sanford Fla.
Mrs. May Dickens		Palatka Fla.
Palatka Library		Palatka Fla.
Serena C. Bailey	Librarian	Tampa, Fla.
Tampa Public Library		Tampa Fla.
Helen Virginia Stelle	Librarian	Clearwater, Fla.
Constance Chase	Librarian	Jacksonville, Fla.
Margaret L. Duncan	Hd. Children's Dept.	Gainesville, Fla.
State University Library		Gainesville, Fla.
Cora Miltmore,	Librarian State Univ.	

The first state-wide meeting of Florida librarians was in St. Augustine in December 1906, and the group was formally established on April 26, 1920 with 23 charter members. Their first orders of business were to encourage the state to establish a state library agency and to enact legislation that allowed counties to establish libraries in their communities. It only took a few years for them to achieve success: The state library

was established in 1925 (and implemented in 1927), and a county library law was enacted in 1931.

To begin this work we needed a visionary leader, and that leader was Helen Virginia Stelle.

She was born in Ohio in 1884 and received her library

education at the Pratt Institute School of Library Science in New York, graduating in 1913. In 1917, Stelle was hired to be the first director of the Tampa Free Library, now the Tampa Hillsborough County Public Library. She would remain the director of the library for the rest of her life.

Stelle gathered her library colleagues in 1920 to form the Florida Library Association, and served as chairman and then president in 1922 and 1931. In 1935, she wrote the influential Florida Library Survey, setting expansive goals for all state libraries. After her death in 1947, newspapers eulogized her as someone who had "devoted her life to develop the public library system" in Tampa.



State Library of Florida, R.A. Gray Building, Tallahassee, c.1989.

PHOTO COURTESY OF FLORIDA STATE ARCHIVES



HELEN VIRGINIA STELLE

Our statewide organization has always been a source of support and

Florida Conferences and Presidents

DATE	PLACE	PRESIDENT	DATE	PLACE	PRESIDENT
1920	Orlando	Helen V. Stelle	1960	Clearwater	Frank Sessa
1921	Ocala	J.F. Marron	1961	Miami	Elliott Hardaway
1922	Tampa	Helen V. Stelle	1962	Jacksonville	Betty Lunnon
1923	Deland	Louise E. Gamsby	1963	Clearwater	Ruth Rockwood
1924	St. Petersburg	Cora Millmore	1964	West Palm Beach	Thomas Drier
1925	Orlando	Cora Millmore	1965	Miami	Henry Brinton
1926	Eustis	Anne Van Ness Brown	1966	Clearwater	Margaret Chapman
1927	Miami	Anne Van Ness Brown	1967	Jacksonville	Elizabeth Mann
1928	Lakeland	Olive Brumbaugh	1968	Miami	Verna Nietenrick
1929	No Meeting	J.F. Marron	1969	Miami Beach	Delyle Runge
1930	Jacksonville	J.F. Marron	1970	FL Lauderdale	Cecil Beach
1931	Gainesville	Helen V. Stelle	1971	Daytona Beach	Lynn Walker
1932	Winter Park	Louise Richardson	1972	Miami Beach	Leo Meirose
1933	Clearwater	Louise Richardson	1973	St. Petersburg	David Kantor
1934	Lake Placid Club	William F. Yust	1974	Jacksonville	Dennis Robison
1935	Orlando	William F. Yust	1975	Orlando	Virginia Grazer
1936	Jacksonville	Carl Bohenberg	1976	Orlando	Ed Sintz
1937	Miami Beach	Mary Bright, Acting	1977	St. Petersburg	Eloise Harbeson
1938	St. Petersburg	Mary Bright	1978	Orlando	Glenn Miller
1939	Mt. Plymouth	Henne May Eddy	1979*	Orlando	John DePew
1940	DeLand	R. W. Severance			Bernadette Storck, President
1941	Clearwater	Bertha Aldrich	1980	Sarasota	Bernadette Storck
1942	Vero Beach	Bertha Aldrich	1981	Miami Beach	Sam Morrison
1943	No Meeting		1982	Orlando	Ada Seltzer
1944	No Meeting		1983	Orlando	Harold Goldstein
1945	No Meeting		1984	Orlando	Jean Rhein
1946	Sarasota	Eulah Mae Snider	1985	Orlando	John McCrossan
1947	Miami	Ida Keeling Cresap	1986	Tampa	James Wheeler
1948	Lakeland	Betty W. Service	1987	Clearwater	Lydia Acosta
1949	Tampa	Sara M. Krentzman	1988	Miami Beach	John D. Hales, Jr.
1950	Gainesville	Stanley L. West	1989	Jacksonville	Althea Jenkins
1951	Orlando	Clara E. Wendel	1990	Daytona Beach	Tom Reitz
1952	Miami	Paul A.T. Noon	1991	Orlando	Linda O'Connor-Levy
1953	Sarasota	Alice Pearce	1992	Miami	Alphonse Trezza
1954	Pensacola	Louis Stores	1993	Daytona Beach	Ann Williams
1955	West Palm Beach	William S. Frieze	1994	Orlando	Susan Anderson
1956	Jacksonville	Elizabeth Peeler	1995	FL Lauderdale	Helen Moeller
1957	St. Petersburg	Dorothy Dodd	1996	Tampa	Elizabeth Curry
1958	Orlando	Helen Keefe	1997	Daytona Beach	Eileen Cobb
1959	Miami	Archie McNeal	1998	Tampa	Patricia DeSalvo Young

encouragement to each other, especially through our annual conferences. Since 1920, the conference has been held each year, with the exception of the war years of 1943-1945. Conferences include many ways for colleagues to learn from each other, share successes and challenges, and increase the camaraderie between us all.

Conference themes through the years have often been forward looking, as we work hard to anticipate change and be the members of our communities that can implement those changes effectively. The 1969 conference attendees knew they were on the “Threshold of a New Decade” and 1973 was about “Coping with Change.” In 1966, the goal was to

become “The Enlightened South” and 1986 emphasized that libraries are a “Renewable Resource” while 2000 showed us that we need “Diverse Libraries to Serve Floridians.”

All these themes, when considered as guides to our work, continue the goals outlined in the 1935 Florida Library Survey, where FLA insisted that we “must take the lead to inform citizens of the desirability of library service to meet their practical and cultural needs.” This goal included the determination to provide equitable library services to all, regardless of race or ethnicity, and we can all be proud that FLA has been committed to equality and diversity well before those ideals were valued by everyone. We have been leaders where it matters most.

FLA has also always been an active collaborator with other organizations who share our goals. We work very closely with universities across the state, we have natural partners in the writing and education fields, and we are closely aligned with library cooperatives. We understand that we are better able to serve our communities when we are fully integrated with other like-minded organizations.

As part of our outreach, we host the annual Library Day in Tallahassee, where we are able to build bridges with legislators as we educate them on issues directly impacting libraries. Part of this education often includes advocacy for privacy rights and intellectual freedom for all, which are foundational goals of any group of librarians.

There is so much that can be said about the history of librarianship in Florida, from our public libraries to our academic libraries and special collections throughout the state. And there is one fact that is always true: Wherever you find a librarian, you are sure to find a resourceful leader who is improving their community. Our history is a proud one, and I look forward to what the next



Friends of the Library gather to attend Library Day activities in support of state funding for library services and construction. Friends representatives on this page are from the Lee County Library System.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF LEE COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM

hundred years will bring.

A snapshot of Florida library history



Students in the Library of the Florida State College for Women, Tallahassee, 1903.

PHOTO COURTESY OF FLORIDA STATE ARCHIVES



Tampa Public Library, built in 1915 with a Carnegie grant of \$50,000, supplemented by city funds. Helen Virginia Stelle was Librarian in 1917 when the library was organized, and is credited with beginning the Florida Library Association.

PHOTO COURTESY OF FLORIDA STATE ARCHIVES



The public library of DeFuniak Springs, site of the 32nd annual session of the Florida Chautauqua, 1916.

PHOTO COURTESY OF FLORIDA STATE ARCHIVES



Albertson Library, the original Orlando Public Library, 1923.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ORANGE COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM



Hastings Branch of the Saint Johns County Public Library System is the left wing of the original Hastings High School, renovated, remodeled and opened in May, 1997 (inset); photo c.1924.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF SAINT JOHNS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND LIBRARY INTERIORS OF FLORIDA



Flagler Memorial Public Library, Miami, 1925.

PHOTO COURTESY OF FLORIDA STATE ARCHIVES



Pressing letters and documents by a library assistant while State Librarian Dorothy Dodd looked on, 1953.

PHOTO COURTESY OF FLORIDA STATE ARCHIVES



Jacksonville Public Library, a Carnegie Library; Florida Times Union photo, 1960.

PHOTO COURTESY OF FLORIDA STATE ARCHIVES



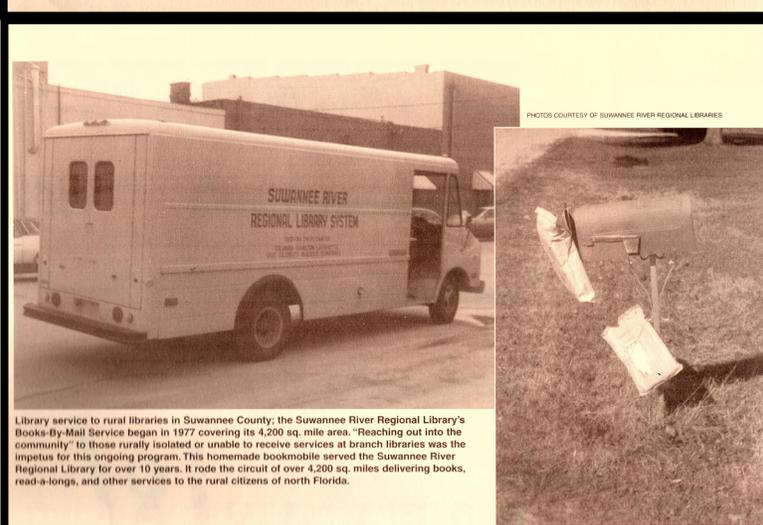
Children's story hour at Fort Gatlin Library, an early Branch of the Orange County Library System, 1971.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ORANGE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY



Book truck and bookmobile service in Florida, the early years; Lakeland Public Library received its first bookmobile in 1954, donated by the Junior Welfare League and in the 1960's used two trailers pulled during the night to bookmobile stops; Orange County bookmobile donated by the Sorosis Club, 1950; Leon County Public Library bookmobile of 1965.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF LAKELAND PUBLIC LIBRARY, ORANGE COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM, FLORIDA STATE ARCHIVES



Library service to rural libraries in Suwannee County; the Suwannee River Regional Library's Books-By-Mail Service began in 1977 covering its 4,200 sq. mile area. "Reaching out into the community" to those rurally isolated or unable to receive services at branch libraries was the impetus for this ongoing program. This homemade bookmobile served the Suwannee River Regional Library for over 10 years. It rode the circuit of over 4,200 sq. miles delivering books, read-a-longs, and other services to the rural citizens of north Florida.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF SUWANNEE RIVER REGIONAL LIBRARIES



PHOTOS COURTESY OF VALENCIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE, TALLAHASSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE



The community college LRC (Learning Resource Center) emphasizes new technologies and ease of access to electronic resources; two of the newest facilities in the state are Valencia Community College East Campus Library (top), 1993, and Tallahassee Community College Library (bottom), 1995.



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FLORIDA DEPARTMENT *of* STATE

When Hearing Voices is a Good Thing

By: Beth Golding

Are you hearing voices? If not, you're missing out! If you maintain historical records collections in your library, you are fortunate to be able to hear the voices of the people represented in those collections. And if you have a professional archivist on staff with the expertise to manage those collections, you are fortunate to have an opportunity to amplify those voices so they can be heard by all who might listen. As you strengthen and broaden your collecting efforts, you can represent a larger spectrum of voices, including those of under-documented or marginalized communities that have often been silenced in traditional archival sources and collecting efforts.

That, in essence, is the magic of archives: Their ability to give voice to those who have come before us, and to preserve today's voices so they can be heard in the future, connecting us in a real way with our predecessors and successors.

Do you hear the voices? Here are a few that can be heard at the State Archives. *All documents have been transcribed exactly as originally written, including spelling and punctuation.*

The Horrors of War

Theodore Washington Brevard was the oldest of four sons of Theodorus Washington Brevard, namesake of Brevard County. Theodore Brevard rose to the rank of Brigadier-General during the United States Civil War and frequently wrote to his family during the conflict. These letters are preserved in the State Archives as part of the Call and Brevard Family Papers (Collection M92-1).

On July 30, 1864, Union troops set off explosives in a tunnel dug under Confederate batteries defending Petersburg, Virginia, killing over 352 Confederate troops. Three days later, on August 2, having witnessed the aftermath of the explosion, Brevard wrote to his mother, Caroline Mays Brevard:

"Grant varied the monotony . . . by a few days since exploding a mine beneath one of our batteries... The battery was destroyed and the men in it blown up. The enemy poured in through the breach in large numbers... The slaughter of the enemy was very great...I visited the scene of explosion and fight... and the sight was ghastly enough to have satisfied Abe Lincoln himself. The dead covered the ground more thickly than I have ever seen... the victims of the explosion particularly were mutilated and disfigured beyond description. "

Brevard's letter then turned more personal, expressing pride in the military service of his 21-year-old brother, Mays:

"Mays is very well - he is not in my regiment but I see him daily - he is a very good officer - stands very well, and is much improved in health. "

(Box 6, Folder 1, Item 12)

Just three weeks later, a letter to Mays from the second-oldest brother, Ephraim, came into Theodore's hands, and his anguished response followed in this August 23 letter to Ephraim:

"Your letter to Mays of the 10th inst. has just been received and opened by myself. Our beloved brother was killed two days ago (21st) in the engagement near the Weldon Road, four miles from Petersburg. He was shot through the head and died without a struggle. Our troops were repulsed and his body was left in the hands of the enemy. This circumstance is inexpressibly painful to me. I did not even know of his death until more than an hour after - he was not in my regiment - and when I heard of it, I was not permitted to attempt a rescue of his body. I would rather have died myself, than have left his unburied body on the field." (Box 6, Folder 1, Item 13)

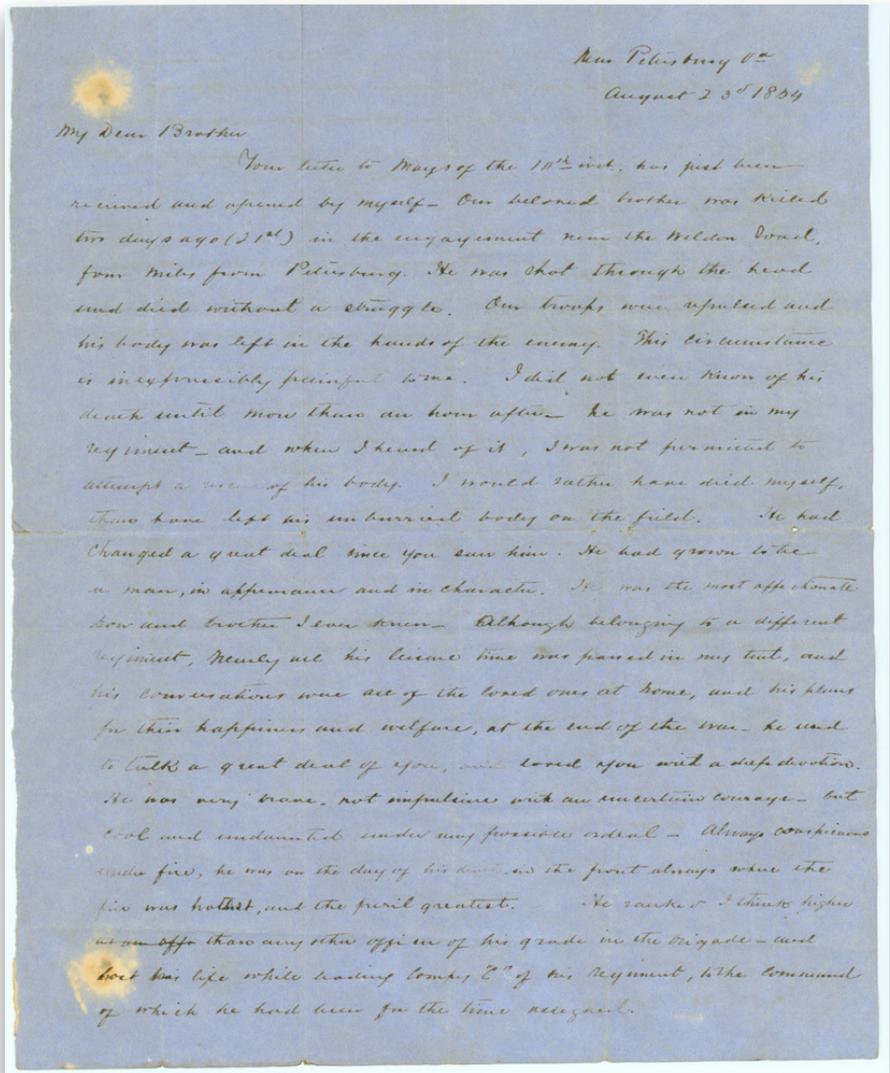
Strength and Struggle

Patricia and Priscilla Stephens were sisters and civil rights leaders and activists who founded the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) Tallahassee chapter in 1959. As CORE chapter leaders and students enrolled at Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University, they led a series of nonviolent sit-in protests at segregated lunch counters in Tallahassee. On February 20, 1960, during one of these sit-ins, Patricia and Priscilla and a group of other students were arrested for "disturbing the peace by engaging in riotous conduct and assembly to the disturbance of the public tranquility." The Stephens sisters and six other students then refused to pay the \$300 fine that would have freed them from jail, pioneering the nation's first "jail-in" of the student protest movement and spending 49 days of their 60-day sentence in the Leon County Jail.

What did it mean to these young women to spend almost two months in jail for asking for lunch at a lunch counter? What did it mean to their families? What were their motivations, their thoughts, their fears? Listen to their voices from the Patricia Stephens Due Papers (Collection N2015-1) at the State Archives.

On February 21, 1960, Patricia and Priscilla's stepfather "Daddy Marion" Hamilton wrote to the sisters in jail:

"We were quite excited Saturday after hearing that you two were among the several who were jailed for having staged some demonstration there in Tallahassee. Your Mother was very much upset for a while and was not eased until she had contacted you.



Letter, August 23, 1864, from Theodore Washington Brevard to his brother Ephraim regarding Civil War death of their younger brother Mays.

I wonder if either of you has counted the cost. I know that you feel that you are doing a grand and noble thing... but stop and take stock and put the matter in the balance. Right now you stand chances of being expelled from school, as FAMU is a State School, run with State Funds, and dictated to from the State's governing powers. This might lead to your not being able to get employment anywhere in the State, unless you have money enough to open your own business, but right now all of us are living from day to day . . . This thing could even come to the point of me losing my job - I do work for the County and the State you know, - and I am too old to look for any type job now, nor would anyone employ me at my age. You may come out all right, but on the other hand you stand a great deal to lose and nothing to gain but a short lived satisfaction. . .

I know that both of you are going to do what you want to do. I think I know you that well. All I can say to you is to weigh the matter, consider all that might be affected, and then do what you are going to do. I know neither of you think that Daddy Marion has any sense, but he has lived in this world a long time and what you are now doing is nothing new to him. "(Box 1, Folder 8)

Letter, February 21, 1960, from "Daddy Marion" Hamilton to his daughters Patricia and Priscilla Stephens in Leon County Jail following sit-ins at segregated lunch counters:

*East Lake School
529 South Lake Avenue
Pahokee, Florida*

February 21, 1960

My Dear Priscilla & Patricia:

We were quite excited Saturday after hearing that you two were among the several who were jailed for having staged some demonstration there in Tallahassee. Your Mother was very much upset for a while and was not eased until she had contacted you.

I wonder if either of you has counted the cost. I know that you feel that you are doing a grand and noble thing, and looking at it from one point of view, you are making some head way. Remember this, if either of you get into trouble, the very people you think you are trying to help would never lend you a hand. The facts are really this: About 10% or 15% of our race are just about ready for what you are trying to accomplish; the other 85% or 90% don't care, are not at all interested, and would do nothing to aid the cause. They had just as soon walk all over you and even curse you for trying to help them. The great majority of them don't want help and wouldn't know how to appreciate anything you will have to suffer to accomplish. Yes, I know it looks big and you feel like you are doing something, but stop and take stock and put the matter in the balance. Right now you stand chances of being expelled from school, as FAMU is a State School, run with State Funds, and dictated to from the State's governing powers. This might lead to your not being able to get employment anywhere in the State, unless you have money enough to open your own business, but right now all of us are living from day to day with nor preparation for a tomorrow - financially nor for business. This thing could even come to the point of me losing my job - I do work for the County and State you know, - and I am too old to look for any type job now, nor would anyone employ me at my age. You may come out all right, but on the other hand you stand a great deal to lose and nothing to gain but a short lived satisfaction.

The thing both of you should consider is to get through College, or get an education, make a place in life for yourself where you can be self sustaining. You have this great opportunity now, so take advantage of it. Stop leaving too much to chance.

I know that both of you are going to do what you want to do. I think I know you that well. All I can say to you is to weigh the matter, consider all that might be affected, and then do what you are going to do. I know neither of you think that Daddy Marion has any sense, but he has lived in this world a long time and what you are now doing is nothing new to him.

Patricia, I apologize, the shoe brush walked back.
Priscilla, I wish to thank you for your lovely letter.

Love,
Daddy Marion

On March 20, the sisters wrote a five-page letter to their parents detailing what happened and explaining their activism and their decision to stay in jail:
<https://www.floridamemory.com/items/show/329142?id=1>

County Jail
 Jacksonville, Fla.
 March 29, 1960

Dearest Mother and Daddy Marion,
 We were very happy to see both of you last night. We wish we could have had more time to talk.
 We cannot be contented with the conditions here in the south any longer. Our very souls are being taken from us by discrimination. How can we be content saying we'll put it off until we are independent? How many independent people are willing to make the necessary sacrifices for freedom? (You know) and I know that there are only a few, a very few. I hope my parents are included in that few.
 The city officials want us out of

"We cannot be contented with the conditions here in the south any longer. Our very souls are being taken from us by discrimination. How can we be content, saying we'll put it off until we are independent? How many independent people are willing to make the necessary sacrifices for freedom? You know, and I know that there are only a few, a very few. I hope my parents are included in that few..."

Last Saturday's events started around nine o'clock when F.S.U. students milled in Wool-worth's and McCrory and ordered breakfast and (or) coffee... The students from the two universities sat and talked for an hour and a half, after which, the mayor came in with his 'boys' and asked them to leave. The spokesman wanted to consult the others but before he had a chance, they were under arrest. During this time I (Pat) was observing in Wool-worth and trying to help them organize because I could not sit in again. After they were arrested (12 of them - 6 F.S.U. - 6-

A+M) I rushed back to campus and got 200 hundred students to go downtown with me and stand in the park in front of the police station. When we got to the park, the students stood orderly and did not block the sidewalk. I then went to the police department and asked to see the students. I was refused. I decided to send some students to Wool-worth to sit in again and also some to sit in at McCrory's. Fifty went to each place. I accompanied the group that went to McCrory's. There are sixty-five seats at the lunch counter and most of them were taken, so our students filled the vacant seats (17 A.+M. students sat down). I was placing them, I did not sit down, They were also arrested. I rushed out to check on the Wool-Worth group. They had been stopped by a mob with sticks,

(4)
 I accompanied the group that went to McCrory's. There are sixty-five seats at the lunch counter and most of them were taken, so our students filled the vacant seats (17 A.+M. students sat down). I was placing them, I did not sit down, They were also arrested. I rushed out to check on the Wool-worth group. They had been stopped by a mob with sticks, guns, and knives, so I called them back. They wanted to go back to the campus and get others, they did. Eight hundred were marching downtown when the cops fired tear-gas on us. I could not anything because a cop threw a tear gas bomb right at me saying "I want you." The eleven of us had been warned that we would be arrested on sight if we participated in the 'march'. The policeman recognized me but a fellow ran with me (the gas had also got the policeman). This is most of the story. I will tell you the rest in my next letters.

(5)
 The policeman recognized me but a fellow ran with me (the gas had also got the policeman). This is most of the story. I will tell you the rest in my next letters.
 We cannot sit back any longer. I'd rather not have an education if it is going to make me afraid to fight for my rights. We all would like to tell two great leaders that they were right when they said "give me liberty or give me death", and "we've got to fill the jails in order to win our equal rights," respectively Patrick Henry and Martin Luther King.
 Write us soon, very soon.
 Tell Walt happy belated birthday.
 Tell Bunny and everybody hello from
 Pat + Mia
 I don't worry about finance.
 Use our dormitory bedrooms.

guns, and knives, so I called them back. They wanted to go back to the campus and get others, they did. Eight hundred were marching downtown when the cops fired tear-gas on us. I could not anything because a cop threw a tear gas right at me saying "I want you." The eleven of us had been warned that we would be arrested on sight if we participated in the 'march'. The policeman recognized me but a fellow ran with me (the gas had also got the policeman). This is most of the story. I will tell you the rest in my next letters.

We cannot sit back any longer. I'd rather not have an education if it is going to make me afraid to fight for my rights. We all would like to tell two great leaders that they were right when they said "give me liberty or give me death", and "we've got to fill the jails in order to win our equal rights," respectively Patrick Henry and Martin Luther King. " (Box 1, Folder 15)

*Three of five pages of a March 20, 1960 letter from sisters Patricia and Priscilla Stephens to their parents from Leon County Jail following sit-ins at segregated lunch counters.

Government Records, Personal Voices

Government records can be just as powerful as personal papers in their ability to place us in other times and places and connect us to other people who share common struggles. After the United States acquired the Territory of Florida from Spain, free people of color found that they no longer were allowed some of the rights they had exercised under Spanish rule. On May 31, 1823, "the Free Colored People of St. Augustine" submitted a petition to the Territorial Legislative Council urging the return of their long-accustomed rights. The petition, preserved at the State Archives with a series of Territorial Legislative Council records (series S876), pleads:

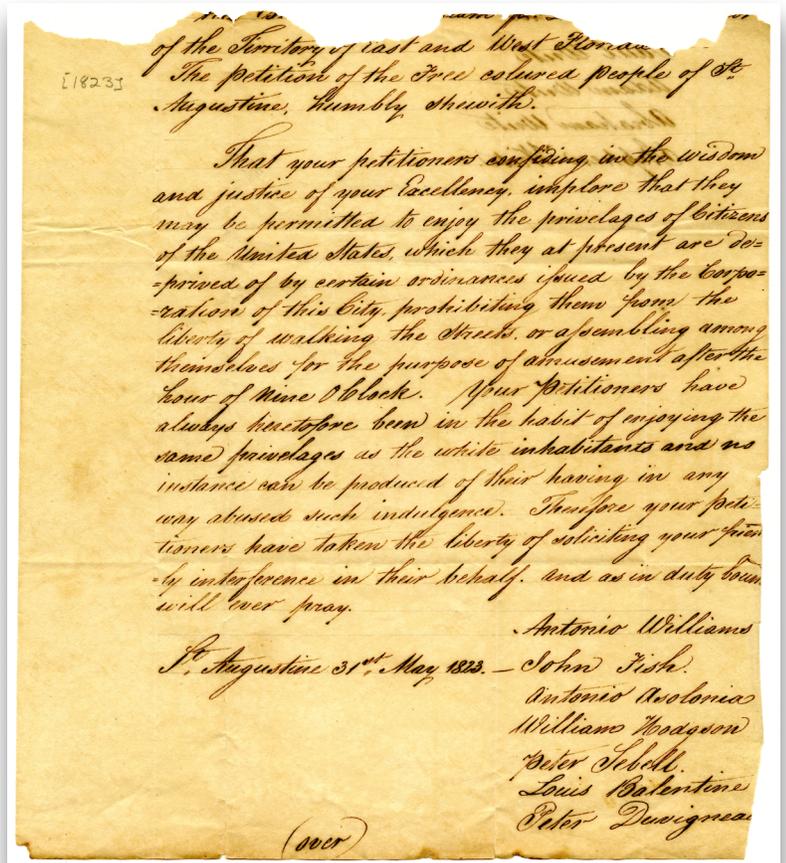
<https://www.floridamemory.com/items/show/339792>

"That your petitioners confiding in the wisdom and justice of your Excellency, implore that they may be permitted to enjoy the privelages of Citizens of the United States, which they at present are deprived of by certain ordinances issued by the Corporation of this City, prohibiting them from the liberty of walking the Streets, or assembling among themselves for the purpose of amusement after the hour of nine o'clock. Your petitioners have always heretofore been in the habit of enjoying the same privelages as the white inhabitants and no instance can be produced of their having in any way abused such indulgence."

(Box 1, Folder 6)

What happens when someone hears voices from the archives? Here is one example: A music therapist used recordings of live folk music performances from the State Archives in a group therapy session. A patient who had been withdrawn and not responding to other activities or other group members suddenly became animated, saying that she knew the music and style from her hometown and discussed the instruments and the songs that were being played. Other group members encouraged her, asking about her experience with different instruments and songs and drawing her out further. From that point forward, she connected and responded to other group members and activities and never again became as disengaged as she had previously been.

When we listen to the voices in our archival collections, we can give our patrons the opportunity to witness how historical records can transport, connect, and ultimately transform – the true magic of archives.



Petition to Territorial Legislative Council, May 31, 1823, from "the Free Colored People of St. Augustine" requesting return of rights.

Beth Golding is Florida's State Archivist and Chief of the Bureau of Archives and Records Management in the Division of Library and Information Services, Florida Department of State. As State Archivist, she oversees programs and services ensuring the preservation and availability of the state's historically valuable public records and complementary historical manuscripts collections.

The Family Heritage House: A Unique Museum-College Library Partnership

By: Alicia K. Long

"There is just so much to know... there is just so much to know about our history," emphasized Fredi Sears Brown in a 2002 interview.¹ Mrs. Brown was referring to how she and her late husband started curating a special collection of documents and artifacts that reflect the history and the experiences of African Americans in Manatee County, Florida, and beyond. Their efforts resulted in the founding of the Family Heritage House, Inc., a museum and research center that celebrates its 30th anniversary and is located in the Library and Learning Center of the State College of Florida, Manatee-Sarasota.

Making Room for Local Heritage

Fredi Sears Brown and her late husband, Ernest L. Brown, Jr., started collecting items when they were living in Detroit, Michigan. Witnesses to historical events such as the Detroit Riots of 1967, Mr. and Mrs. Brown's academic backgrounds in journalism and education motivated them to document and safeguard the living history they were experiencing. They started saving news clippings, photographs, documents, and books depicting African American history and heritage.² Their goal was ambitious: To motivate children, youth, and society in general on an "ongoing search for truth." More specifically, a truth that was being bypassed by mainstream history with regard to African Americans' experiences.³

After the Browns moved to Bradenton, Florida in the 1970's, their collection kept growing and as the years passed, they realized they had created a hybrid library-museum collection of books and documents.⁴ In 1990,



Ernest and Fredi Brown in front of the first Family Heritage House: a trailer located behind a Head Start in Bradenton.

they opened the first "Heritage House" in a trailer located behind a Head Start office in their neighborhood on the East side of Bradenton. Their intention was to have a non-circulating collection available to anyone for browsing, studying, and researching.⁵ In a conversation with the Museum Specialist, Kathie Marsh, she explains that the Browns' focus was always on youth. They envisioned young people learning, being proud of their heritage, and feeling motivated to further their education. At the time, Mrs. Brown worked at Manatee Community College (MCC), developing Equal Opportunity programs and leading the College's outreach efforts to diversify their student body. That's how MCC President, Dr. Stephen Korcheck, heard about the Browns' unique collection. He recognized that they needed a more permanent solution and made it his personal goal to create a space for the collection in the college. Dr. Korcheck was instrumental in developing a campaign to raise funds to build space, according to Marsh.

Dr. Korcheck's initial impetus was followed by strong support from the next president, Dr. Sarah Pappas, who worked to



Groundbreaking for the Family Heritage House building that opened next to the Manatee Community College Library in 2000. Ernest and Fredi Brown are at the center. To Mr. Brown's left is Dr. Sarah Pappas (MCC president) and to Mrs. Brown's right are her mother and Dr. Stephen Korcheck (MCC president)

secure contributions from several community organizations. In September 2000, the Family Heritage House, Inc. opened the doors of their new building, attached to the MCC Bradenton Library.⁶ What makes this case unique is that the Family Heritage House, Inc. (FHH) remains an independent organization, but it has been part of the college since then. "It's been a real blessing to have the college build the space here for it," points out Marsh. In addition to operating benefits, Marsh explains that moving the museum to the college allowed for more exposure, such as being a destination for local school tours and becoming visible to students, faculty, and the wider community. As Fredi Brown told a reporter in 2007, "People can learn so much about themselves by just exposing themselves to different cultures."⁷

Although at first the library and the museum were only sharing a wall, since then the relationship between both institutions has deepened and taken the form of a more active partnership. In 2018 the college, now called State College of Florida, Manatee-Sarasota (SCF,) built a new Library & Learning Center on campus. The Family Heritage House is now housed in this

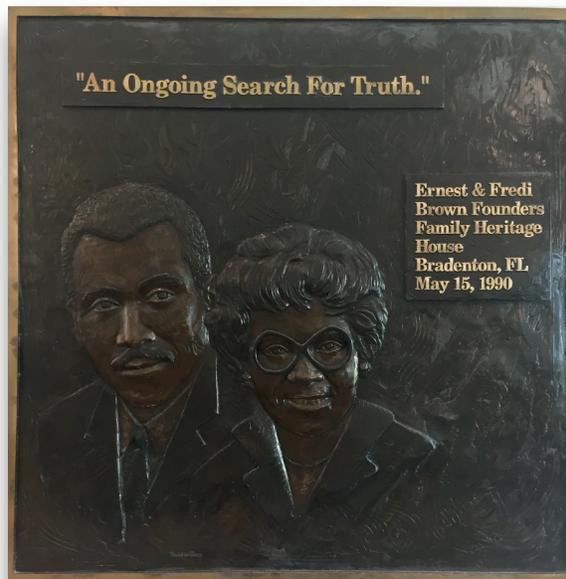
building, with their own dedicated spaces that feature a gallery, research space, and children's room. "It's a great presidential legacy for the college that several presidents have supported the Family Heritage House," reflects Meg Hawkins, director of SCF Libraries. "[Current President] Dr. Carol Probstfeld supported their move into this new space, building on Dr. Korcheck's and Dr. Pappas' legacies. The presidents have supported the partnership throughout the years," affirms Hawkins.

Sharing Heritage for 30 Years

The Browns' vision of an ongoing search for truth through family heritage has impacted the Manatee and Sarasota communities for the museum's 30 years of existence. The FHH's collections are broad and encompassing. A section of artifacts and documents depicts the

international origins of local families, such as African masks and drums, memorabilia from Nelson Mandela's election, and other artifacts related to the African diaspora. A national and regional history section includes artifacts on slavery, the United States Civil War, and a special section about the history of Robert Smalls. Smalls, an enslaved person who escaped to freedom piloting a Confederate ship,

later became a legislator in South Carolina. Smalls' descendants have a local connection and in 2018 the FHH hosted an exhibit on this special topic. The museum also includes important documents about the Underground Railroad, and owns a copy of William Still's book *The*



An Ongoing Search for Truth Plaque depicting Fredi and Ernest Brown, co-founders of the Family Heritage House, located at the entrance to the museum.

Underground Railroad, published in 1872. In 2003, the FHH was added to the National Park Service's Underground Railroad Network to Freedom and it has also been designated a spot on the Gulf Coast Heritage Trail. Artifacts depicting the Jim Crow era are featured, as well as the Harlem Renaissance, with a special section on Zora Neale Hurston. As proof of their commitment to family heritage, the Museum has sections related to local figures who became sports legends and on local military heroes. Another section showcases the first African American educators of Manatee County, for whom several of the local schools are named. Documents on segregation in local schools and other artifacts of local significance complement the collection, including a model of the historical Central Avenue West in Bradenton, a landmark of African American-owned stores and businesses. The FHH as an institution also plays an important role as a gathering space for the Manatee and Sarasota African American communities. Local chapters of Greek fraternities and sororities, the Manasota chapter of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH), and other service groups offer scholarships to high school and college students and regularly host events at the FHH.

The Annie Lucy Williams Children's Room contains collectible dolls and other African American toys, plus a special collection of children's books. In 2019, on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the Coretta Scott King (CSK) Books Award (an award for African-American literature for youth presented by the American Library Association)⁸, the FHH made the commitment to acquire all the CSK Book Award winners for author and illustrator for the past 50 years. An event celebrating this new collection hosted many students from local schools and their families in November 2019.⁹

Partnering for Cultural Heritage

Libraries and museums share a goal of life-long learning and a responsibility for preserving and sharing cultural heritage. The UNESCO website states that, "heritage constitutes a source of identity and cohesion for communities" and along with creativity, heritage lays, "the

foundations for vibrant, innovative and prosperous knowledge societies."¹⁰ Cultural institutions like museums and libraries seek to address the knowledge needs of their community. Although there are many examples of other museum-library partnerships, including some in Florida, not much has been written about experiences like these.¹¹ In 2005, the President of the Florida Libraries Association, Dr. Derrie Perez, led the publication of a special issue of Florida Libraries about cultural heritage.¹² An earlier column in the same publication, *Floridiana With a Twist*, compiled organizations related to African American cultural heritage in Florida.¹³ That list, along with the Florida Black Heritage Trail Guide published by the Florida Department of State,¹⁴ include several African American organizations and museums from the Tampa Bay and Gulf Coast areas. But none of them, as far as the author could find, have ties with a college or an academic library.

In this unique partnership, the museum maintains its independence as an incorporated 501(c)3 organization, but the college provides the space and contributes to the operational budget. The two institutions have signed a memorandum of understanding that clearly specifies their respective responsibilities. The SCF Libraries director is part of the FHH Board and supervises the museum's only paid staff member. The Family Heritage House's book collection, as well as the rest of their materials, belongs to the organization. However, the SCF librarians are helping make the collection more discoverable and all members of the SCF Libraries staff assist the FHH with support and promotion of their events and initiatives.

Although the collaboration presents some challenges, the benefits for both institutions are evident. "For me it's all about access," explains Hawkins, SCF Libraries director. "I want to promote awareness of and access to the resources of the Family Heritage House to SCF students and to our community patrons. It's about educating our communities. That's where you can tell I get excited: It's about getting to promote cultural understanding and empathy in our community." A shared goal for both institutions.

Looking to the Future

With the move to the new building and a need to continue the legacy of the Browns, the FHH leadership looks forward to strengthening the partnership with SCF. A new initiative is being developed that seeks to make their book collection more visible. SCF librarians and staff are working on adding the special collection of FHH books to the library's integrated system and catalog, to make them easier to find and to allow circulation of selected materials.



The Library & Learning Center at the State College of Florida, Manatee-Sarasota, where the Family Heritage House is located.

The collaboration on future family and children events related to the Coretta Scott King Book Award collection will continue, with the next family event scheduled for the first Saturday of November, 2020. In addition, celebrations for the 30th anniversary will include a jazz concert in the SCF Neel Performing Arts Center and other events.

This year Fredi Sears Brown will celebrate her 97th birthday. More than 30 of those years were devoted to a legacy of preserving and sharing the family, local, and national history of many African American families like hers. Thanks to partnering with the State College of Florida, Manatee-Sarasota and its library, that legacy is strong and will continue to be available for generations to come.

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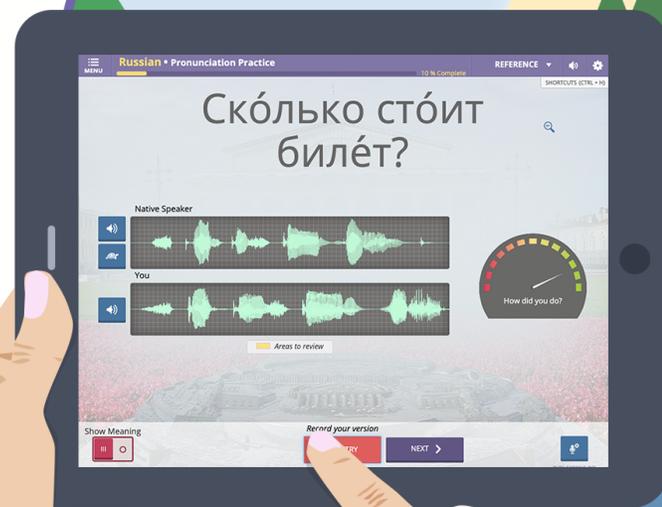
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Miami Woman's Club: A Rich History

By: Ida Tomshinsky

The Miami Woman's Club was founded in 1900, four years after the City of Miami was incorporated, and was then known as "The Married Ladies' Afternoon Club." It was founded by Mrs. Curtis W. Gardner and Mrs. James M. Jackson, and the club's initial goals were to improve social and literary affairs, but soon expanded to include varied civic endeavors. The



club was chartered on July 24, 1911 and in 1913 built its first clubhouse on Flagler Street on a lot donated by Henry Flagler. The building housed a public library and a reading room. And so, this was the birth of the first free public library in Miami.

Henry M. Flagler was the club's benefactor and is known for building the Florida East Coast Railway. With the ease of transportation that the railroad brought, Palm Beach and Miami both grew to thriving cities.

The building was constructed in 1925 in the Mission/Spanish Revival style, and was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1974.

The Miami Woman's Club was part of the General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC), whose roots can be traced back to 1868. Jane Cunnigham Croly (1829-1901), a professional New York journalist who wrote under the name of Jennie June, attempted to attend a dinner at an all-male press club, honoring British novelist Charles Dickens. Croly was denied admittance based upon her gender and in response, she formed a club for women and extended an invitation to women's clubs throughout the

United States to attend a ratification convention in New York. Sixty-three clubs attended in April 1890 and took action to form the General Federation of Women's Clubs.

The GFWC was a supporter of women's suffrage, which we celebrate the centennial of this year. Today, GFWC continues its tradition of addressing social issues affecting women and families through programs that combat violence against women and promote human rights.



The Miami's Woman's Club, circa 1944.



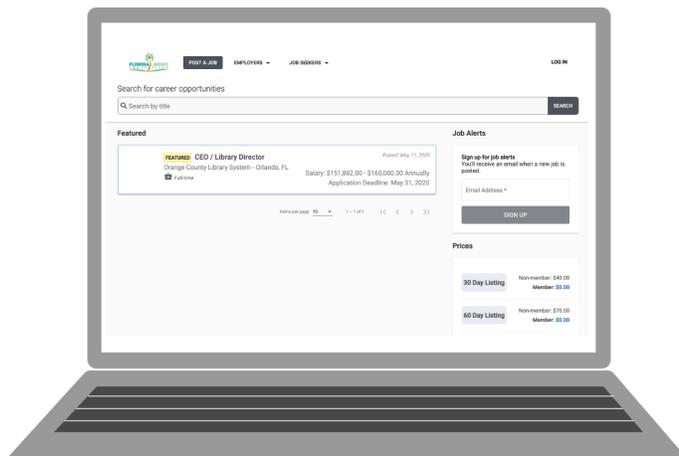
The Miami Woman's Club, circa 2020

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Lynn University Library Celebrates the 20th Anniversary of the Conservatory of Music

By: Tsukasa Cherkaoui and Lea Iadarola



Image by [LeBanc](#) from Pixabay

On July 1, 1999, Lynn University acquired the music division of the HARID Conservatory, and so the 2019-2020 academic year marks the 20th

anniversary of the Conservatory of Music at Lynn.

The Lynn Library wanted to commemorate this milestone anniversary by showcasing the Conservatory's archival collections. To achieve this goal, Lynn Library Archivist Lea Iadarola and Lynn Music Librarian Tsukasa Cherkaoui teamed up to work on two projects: the first was a historical timeline of the Conservatory, and the second was a video production to chronicle the Conservatory's endeavors.

At the end of 2018, Lea Iadarola completed a comprehensive historical digital timeline for Lynn University using TimelineJS, an open-source tool provided by Northwestern University Knight Lab.[1]

After seeing the attractive interface and interactive features, Tsukasa Cherkaoui decided creating a similar timeline would be the perfect way to display the highlights and accomplishments of the Conservatory. Since Tsukasa has worked at Lynn University for almost 17 years, her knowledge and experiences were the reference points to define notable events. To support her selections and bolster the facts, she gathered information from archival news clippings of the local newspapers, university publications, and concert programs.

Using Knight Lab's recommended 20-slide

maximum as a guideline, Tsukasa focused on the historical events that showed the growth and development of the Conservatory. For example, she featured the Deans of the Conservatory and Music Directors of Lynn University Philharmonia. Many of the "firsts" of the Conservatory events were mentioned. Also noted were the dates when concert venues were built to accommodate the Conservatory's growing audiences, and when the Conservatory was relocated to larger buildings to accommodate the growing faculty, staff, and students.

Creating the timeline helped focus the Conservatory's narrative, and ultimately helped shape the forthcoming video production. Three major themes emerged: the Conservatory's history, educational value, and future.

Oral History Project

While meeting with Dr. Jon Robertson, Dean of the Conservatory of Music, in October 2018, Lea and Tsukasa discovered that Dr. Robertson's personal history, how he came to Lynn, his experiences at the university, and his vision for the future of the Conservatory was inspirational and compelling. They thought he would not only provide a great recorded video oral history for the University Archives but that the oral history might also weave well into a more significant video production about the Conservatory's anniversary.

And that's how the idea of the documentary-style video to commemorate the Conservatory's 20th anniversary was born.

Recruiting Film Studies Students

Armed with a lot of disparate ideas and a modest

budget, but the full-backing of the library director and a lot of archival content, Tsukasa and Lea realized they needed help with shooting and editing the video. They turned to a film studies professor at Lynn for her suggestions on the most talented and dedicated students. Her recommendation was Nicole and Olivia Schrader, a pair of sisters – both talented film students. Nicole, a graduate student with the gift of editing, and Olivia, an undergraduate student with a passion for shooting video. The Schrader Sisters were exactly what the project needed. They were responsive, dedicated, and flexible with the ever-changing (and growing) shooting schedule.

The Interviews

In addition to Dr. Robertson’s oral history interview, Lea and Tsukasa also wanted to conduct an oral history-style interview with the first dean of the Conservatory, Dr. Roberta Rust, now head of the piano department at Lynn. Dr. Rust came to Lynn from HARID and was present from the very beginning, offering a valuable perspective.

Tsukasa and Lea also conducted shorter interviews with Maestro Guillermo Figueroa, the music director of Lynn University Philharmonia, and Lisa Leonard, professor of Collaborative Piano, in addition to the founding members of the Friends of the Conservatory, and finally, a joint interview with President Emeritus Donald Ross and current Lynn President Kevin Ross. Each of the interviewees would contribute something unique to the video.

The interview process itself took up an enormous amount of time. Release forms for the interviewees were created and signed. Tsukasa and Lea had to research each interviewee, write questions, and then the interviews themselves had to be planned and scheduled. And, of course, the interviews had to be filmed and transcribed.

Commissioning a Musical Work

A video about a music program needs excellent music. Tsukasa and Lea naturally thought of

using music performed by Lynn students. To avoid copyright restrictions, they initially selected works in the public domain, such as those composed by Beethoven and Mozart, but the emotional appeal of Beethoven and Mozart simply did not match the mood of the modern Conservatory video. So, Tsukasa and Lea looked for another solution.

Tsukasa asked Conservatory alumni Alfredo Cabrera (a composition student at that time) if he was interested in composing a piece for the video. He said he was interested in the opportunity, and, “I think I have something you’re going to like.” He made a few clicks on his computer and played an unfinished piece for her. As she listened to the playback of his piano composition, she immediately fell in love with it and told him, “I’m going to buy this music!” Then, they shook hands.

Cabrera completed the work in May 2019 and titled it, *The Man with All the Knowledge for 2 Pianos*. He explained that this piano piece was dedicated to his composition teacher, Dr. Thomas McKinley, and the title referred to how he was introduced to Dr. McKinley when he started the program at Lynn. “This is the man with all the knowledge,” the Conservatory’s Dean, Dr. Robertson told Cabrera of McKinley at the time.

The Man with All the Knowledge for 2 pianos is a timeless musical work that accentuates the emotions of the interviewees, and provides harmony to the storyline and three themes that we wanted to achieve in this video. Furthermore, this music became the first work that the Lynn Library ever commissioned. It was our way of showing support for contemporary composers.[2]

Producing the Video

After all of the research, creating the timeline, reviewing the interviews, and selecting the music, Lea and Tsukasa knew what the video should convey. It was time to create an outline and a script, weaving and editing the interviews, b-roll, and archival images together to form a cohesive story.

Tsukasa and Lea created the draft and pulled the pertinent archival material while Nicole and Olivia edited and polished the video

according to Lynn’s marketing brand guidelines. After many months and iterations of this process, they had a completed video.

Publicizing the Video and Timeline

Lynn’s marketing and communications department reviewed and edited the video to



Image by [Recklessstudios](#) from [Pixabay](#)

make sure that it adhered to the university’s branding guidelines. Then, the video was shown to the Conservatory community, at various concerts, and

Conservatory’s fundraising events. It has been posted to the university’s official YouTube channel.[3] A director’s cut version was posted to SPIRAL, Lynn’s institutional repository.[4]

The interactive timeline was posted in SPIRAL.[5] Tsukasa and Lea requested iPad stands to be placed in the lobby of the Keith C. and Elaine Johnson Wold Performing Arts Center so audiences could interact with the Conservatory’s history before orchestra concerts. The digital timeline was converted into print and split into five parts. Each part was featured in the five orchestra program booklets to reach an even greater audience.

Later, the marketing department used the text and images from the library’s timeline to create a non-interactive timeline for LynnSight Magazine, Lynn’s alumni publication. This was also featured on Lynn’s website.[6]

Conclusion

The Lynn Library and the authors played a crucial role in celebrating the Conservatory’s 20th anniversary milestone – and it was sparked by a robust archival collection and a desire to build an oral history collection.

A small idea of commemorating the Conservatory’s anniversary bloomed into a timeline and a multifaceted video. It documented 20 years of Conservatory history, captured the living voices of the leaders who developed the music program, and showcased the students’ talents. The library’s archive collection was used to gather the historical information to create the timeline and to frame the video’s story. Collaboration isn’t always easy, but this project was a good example of a series of very successful collaborations: Collaboration within the library, among the library and other departments at the university, and the library collaborating with students.

The entire process took the better part of a year, and was, at times, challenging. But in the end, the authors got to experience work that was very different from their usual day-to-day tasks. They learned a lot about the video production process, working collaboratively, and they also discovered that libraries and archives have much more to contribute to these types of milestone events than they ever knew.

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Brave Leadership through Vulnerability: A Review

By: Karen Urbec

One Book One State is our opportunity to read a book together that will introduce new ideas for our professional and personal benefit. As we read together, we can discuss the book informally or together at the conference. This year's book invites us to improve our leadership by opening ourselves up to vulnerability.

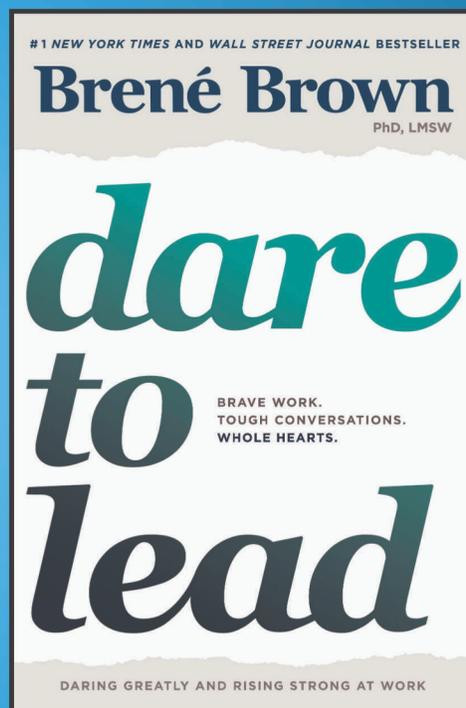
Dare to Lead, by Brené Brown, is not your typical leadership guide. Other books, and people in general, might define leadership as displaying the correct job title, having the status to give orders, or being the one with all the answers. But Brown disagrees. In her opinion, borne of twenty years as a professor and social worker with a research focus on courage, vulnerability, and empathy, Brown says that the best leaders are those who are willing to build a strong team through openness, honesty, and vulnerability. It is only through our willingness to be emotionally available to those around us, she says, that we can truly have open communication and so build the trust that is foundational to any strong team.

You might know Brené Brown from her TED talk on vulnerability, it's one of the top 5 most-viewed talks, or you may have read one of her earlier books. Or perhaps you have not encountered her just yet. Whether you know of her works or not, I heartily recommend this book. She writes in a very engaging, almost conversational style that is warm and inviting. Chapters are broken into many sections, allowing the reader take in new ideas for short periods and then have time to mull them over before moving ahead. Whether you agree with her point of view or not, she presents an approach to communication and leadership that will give each of us something to think about and maybe even something to apply to our own careers and personal lives.

**ONE BOOK
ONE STATE**



Eric Head, '19-'20 FLA President, has chosen the #1 New York Times and Wall Street Journal Bestseller, "Dare to Lead" by Brené Brown. The FLA Leadership Development Committee is planning an extensive One Book One State program based on this engaging read, so check it out and stay tuned for more information!



Technical Services Paraprofessionals: Leading Forward from Behind the Scenes

By: Christopher Boyd and Jessica O'Neil

Somewhere in a dark and windowless corner at the back of your library toils a small but dedicated band of introverts who perform magic tricks all day long. Yes, these are the people who populate your Technical Services Department. You will rarely see them by the Circulation or Reference Desks, but they can sometimes be spotted in the stacks, often easily identifiable by an accompanying book cart and a bashful look. What's this about magic, you ask? Open up your library catalog and you will see it there. Thousands of books and periodicals are easily found - on your screen, and on the shelves throughout the library. E-books open up at the click of a mouse and can be read from the comfort of your home. Fresh magazines and newspapers appear in your browsing area; attractive displays come and go with the seasons; DVDs and streaming videos are yours for the asking.

For library users, this is a given. There is no need to wonder how it happened. Like the internet, it's just there, and it works. Some will scratch their heads in wonder at the funny string of letters and numbers shown adjacent to each title they have found, and if they really care enough, they will ask someone at a desk what it all means. I like to tell them call numbers are like street addresses - that's where each book lives. Show them the system once, and they are good to go.

Librarians can be tougher customers. Everything must happen now, it seems. No request to add a new resource may go unattended. Surely Technical Services staff wait in thrall of their next request? Here's the inside scoop, folks: actually, we do, but these things still take time. Vendors must be contacted, orders placed, and packages must come in from the great, white North and beyond. Only then can Technical Services leap into action. There are the cartons to open, the books to check in, and the

notifications to those who asked the library to buy them. Then there are the acquisitions and cataloging workflows to follow, the material processing to make it all shelf-ready, the routing to temporary homes such as the New to the Library display, and the invoice copying and forwarding to Business Services for payment to the vendors. Patience, colleagues! We do what we can.

But wait! We are finding new ways to do even more! Rapid changes in technology require new skills. No, we will not be hiring newer, smarter, better-educated people to meet this need. We will be learning these new skills ourselves. And who are we really? We are paraprofessionals, by and large, with perhaps one librarian with a Master's degree to provide some guidance. We are very good at what we do, but what we do is constantly shifting under our feet.

Doing More within Technical Services

All throughout the more recent literature on the subject, the role of technical services is re-imagined in new ways. For example, we are presented as part of a broader networked environment, with a focus on managing electronic resources and curating rare print materials. We are urged to consider abandoning our traditional categories of acquisitions, cataloging, serials, and systems in favor of a less structured, less hierarchical approach. Metadata functions and workflows already require new skill sets, and paraprofessional catalogers will morph into trainers, advisors, and consultants, as this traditionally-invisible profession moves into users' environments, where services can be customized to individual needs (Oliver, 2016). Like it or not, these and other changes are coming, and we will have to embrace them.

Acquisitions

You know what really bugs us? No two vendors do the same thing the same way, right? And the way each does their thing is constantly changing – “improving” is the word they use. Technical Services workflows must be adjusted; the How-To documentation has to be updated; we must befriend the new interfaces. All this is especially so in Acquisitions, where the rubber meets the road. If we can’t drive the thing, there is bound to be trouble.

Cataloging

Cataloging in particular sits on the blurry line between professionals and paraprofessionals. Cox and Myers (2010) surveyed all catalogers in member libraries of the Association of Research Libraries, and they found a fluid mingling of the two as advances in technology have streamlined workflows, allowing staff at all levels to participate in higher-level work. Oftentimes, little seems to differ between them but that Master’s degree.

Serials

According to the Online Dictionary of Library and Information Science (ODLIS), “Serials Control” is one of the “high level technical support” duties frequently assigned to library paraprofessionals (Leibowitz, 2012). The responsibilities include management of both print and electronic journals, and they also require skills such as organizational and analytical skills, extensive work experience, and the ability to integrate electronic resources management tasks into print serials workflows.

Interdepartmental Collaboration Archives

An acquisitive Library Archives department may delight in local treasures and encourage donations from all corners of the region, but the cataloger who will make all of these discoverable most likely works in Technical Services. Hired as a copy cataloger and paraprofessional, this person may soon be pressed into service doing original

cataloging of unique local ephemera. Colati, Crowe, and Meagher (2009) addressed this disconnect by implementing a consolidated cataloging and archives processing unit to take advantage of departmental structure, materials processing workflows, and staff resources that were already in place. The result enhances and extends the skills of paraprofessionals in both Archives and Technical Services.

Circulation/Customer Services

The opportunities to collaborate with the most public-facing department at the library are boundless. From weeding to inventory-taking to refreshing displays, there are roles all up and down the scale from part-time student helper to department head. It’s truly advantageous for Technical Services paraprofessionals because students can do the simplest tasks, freeing them to work farther up the ladder in more challenging roles. And with better understanding of the intricacies of other departments’ work comes a certain affinity and even camaraderie.

Electronic Resources Management

An interesting survey by Erb and Erb (2015) of over 100 paraprofessionals working in electronic resource management found many performing advanced functions and also holding advanced degrees. Oddly, having the degree did not correlate with the more advanced job duties to any great extent. Elsewhere, Erb (2015) describes the application of NASIG’s Core Competencies for Electronic Resource Librarians to expand and encompass restructuring paraprofessional positions that manage resources.

Research, Reference, and Instruction

What would we do all day in Technical Services if it weren’t for our hard-working subject specialists/liaison librarians? For it is they who fill our online carts with print books and e-books; who tell us which subscriptions and standing

orders to add, maintain, and cancel; and which professors to notify immediately upon arrival of that book they needed yesterday. They decide what to keep and what to weed when it's time to open up more space. These are the drivers of our busy days and of our constant efforts to find new and better ways of doing more. Here, the line blurs, even disappears, between librarians and paraprofessionals, as we all do our part to bring these new resources to our public, our users, our students, staff, and faculty.

Conclusion

Though we are not truly the face of the library, we are nevertheless forward-facing. We do our work on behalf of all

those who use the library, just like other departments do. And we take on new responsibilities as new technology insists we do, without regard to established delineations between card-carrying librarians and paraprofessionals, always just doing what needs to be done.



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Local to Global: Community Digitization Partnerships at FSU Libraries

By: Krystal Thomas and Keila Zayas Ruiz

The Sunshine State Digital Network (SSDN) is the Digital Public Library of America (DPLA) service hub for the state of Florida. The DPLA is a national search portal where users can access over 36 million images, texts, videos, and sound recordings from across the United States. We serve as a conduit between DPLA and Florida's cultural heritage institutions, including libraries, historical societies, museums, and archives to share their content with the DPLA search platform. Sharing Florida's cultural heritage content to DPLA allows Florida's culture, history, and human experiences to be included in a national narrative, by placing our materials side-by-side with content from institutions like the Smithsonian, the National Archives, Harvard University, and the New York Public Library.

Both the SSDN and the DPLA share a passion for expanding access to openly-available materials and a dedication to constructive collaboration. As a network, we make connections that build meaningful, long-term relationships. These relationships help build capacity among institutions of all types, sizes, and resource levels. Our philosophy for collaboration is valuing the various types of contributions organizations can make. Whether that is sharing content, resources, skills, or expertise across our network. We strive to encourage co-learning and mutual respect between organizations, to ensure we are thinking critically about power and resource dynamics, that needs and concerns are listened to, and that communication is dynamic and open for continual engagement beyond any project's conclusion. The ultimate goal is to empower any type of organization to be good stewards of their collections and play an active role in making them discoverable to the world. This does not mean that all partners participate equally or to the same degree at all times, but rather that the opportunity to do so is open to everyone.

This is accomplished through a variety of services and training opportunities provided by partners throughout the network. As one of the implementing members and the administrative home for the SSDN, Florida State University Libraries (FSUL) endeavors to model good community partnerships and collaborations. FSUL has partnered with both traditional historical organizations such as the Havana History and Heritage Society (HHHS) and the Institute on World War II and the Human Experience, as well as with organizations which most members of the public do not look to for historical records, including two local high schools in Leon County and two local churches.

How It Works

In 2016, FSUL was approached through a mutual acquaintance to partner with the First Baptist Church of Tallahassee (FBC) for a potential digitization project of their church bulletins. Over several discussions, FSUL entered into a digital project charter with FBC for that purpose. Also through that relationship, we entered into an agreement with Leon High School to digitize their yearbooks and later their newspapers. As these were the first partnerships FSUL was entering into, a lot of thought went into the creation of the project charters.^[1] The intent was to keep these documents as user-friendly as possible, avoiding library jargon and ensuring explicit outcomes for the project are clearly stated. It was important to outline what would be completed as part of the project and what would be outside the scope. In some earlier experiments with collaborative partnerships on campus, we failed to fully outline the scope, which led to some never-ending projects.

It was also important to both FSUL and our partners to make clear in the documentation that

the material ownership would never move from its original institution. The materials would only be temporarily transported to FSUL for digitization and description and then returned to their parent organizations. The charter was also an opportunity to educate partners about the digitization process, so there was no misunderstanding about what the final products of the project would be. This includes any copyright decisions made about the materials as well as their eventual sharing of their materials into the DPLA through the SSDN.

Different organizations required different negotiations to make sure all parties were comfortable with the project charter. One area of discussion was transportation. One organization wanted to deliver the materials themselves to FSUL; other partners were happy to allow FSUL staff to come and collect materials at pre-arranged times. In one instance, the partner gave staff the ability to come and go as they needed from their building as long as we gave notice to them about what we transported. We have also added other services beyond digitization in our project charters. An example was with the Havana History & Heritage Society where we also agreed to unbind the scrapbooks for digitization and rehoused them into archival boxes for improved physical preservation over time.

Once materials are in-house at FSUL, we treat the project like any of our other digitization

projects. The materials are prepped for digitization and a project workbook created with the project timeline and inventory. Metadata is created for each object following DigiNole Metadata Guidelines as well. [2] Within the metadata, the owner institution is listed clearly so there is no confusion. All of this documentation is stored in a Google Drive folder which is shared with the partners so they can check progress on the project at any time while their materials are at FSUL. If the project is behind its agreed-upon timeline, that is communicated directly with the partner as well. Digitization is completed following the FSUL's

Digital Library Center Imaging Standards (based on FADGI) and then materials are uploaded and made publicly available through DigiNole: FSU's Digital Repository. [3][4] Within the collection created for the partner, the description is used to explain the partnership and all the project documentation is shared to the public as well. If the partner chooses, a logo can also be displayed with their items. Materials are then returned to the partner and the project is complete. If they have more that

they wish to digitize in the future, a new project charter would be created for that material.

When the partner organization receives the project charter, they also receive a SSDN Content Contributor Agreement to review and sign. [5] This agreement gives SSDN permission to share partner metadata to the DPLA. Partners with collections in DigiNole that are shared to

The screenshot shows the DigiNole website interface. At the top, there is a search bar with the text 'SEARCH IN Godby High School' and a 'Go' button. Below the search bar are navigation links: Home, Advanced Search, View All Items, About Us, and FAQ. The main content area is titled 'GODBY HIGH SCHOOL' and features a red-bordered box labeled 'About This Collection'. This box contains links for 'Collection Credits', 'Project Documentation', and 'Godby High School Website'. To the right of this box is a 'Search this Collection' search bar with a 'search' button. Below the 'About This Collection' box is a paragraph of text describing the collection: 'Amos P. Godby High School opened in 1966 as Amos P. Godby Junior High School with grades 7 & 8. The school shared its campus with the newly created Tallahassee Junior College (present day Tallahassee Community College). Due to the small number of African American student population, court-ordered desegregation was implemented during the following year. The school colors, of royal blue and white, along with the school mascot, a Cougar, were chosen during the opening year. In 1968, now having grades 9-11, the name was changed to Amos P. Godby Junior Senior High School. The first graduating class was in 1970.' Below this text is another paragraph: 'This collection from Godby High School includes all the yearbooks published by its student body from the first class in 1969 to its most recent graduating class. Through the FSU Libraries partnership with the school for this initial project, we hope to provide access to future yearbooks as well.' Below the text are two sections: 'SORT RESULTS BY:' with a list of options (Title, Author, Date, ID, Relevancy, Date Created) and 'NARROW RESULTS BY:' with a list of filters (Collection, Topical Subject, Genre, Type of Resource, Language, Creator, Format, Location, Owner). The 'Search results' section shows a list of items with columns for Title, Creator, Date Issued, Identifier, and Format. The first three items are: '1969 Cougar, Volume 1.', '1973 Cougar, Volume 5.', and '1974 Cougar, Volume 6.' Each item has a small thumbnail image to its left.

Collection documentation is included with each collection description on DigiNole in the "About This Collection" section highlighted here in the red box.

DPLA are listed as independent partners with SSDN. This helps to make clear the ownership of these materials and that FSUL community partners are full members of SSDN, not hidden under the larger umbrella of FSUL collections.

What We Achieve

There are a myriad of outcomes of this work for the organizations involved. Digitizing and exposing this local content in DPLA through SSDN amplifies the collections by adding an additional level of discoverability. It allows for organizations that might be left out of the historical record such as churches and schools to take part in the wider digital cultural heritage community.

HOME		BROWSE BY PARTNER	MY LISTS	VISIT SUNSHINE STATE DIGITAL NETWORK	VISIT DPLA
SSDN		Search the collection		Search	
Browse by Partner					
State Library and Archives of Florida	82,214	University of Miami Libraries	50,780		
Florida State University Libraries	49,835	Florida International University Libraries	20,900		
University of South Florida Libraries	12,402	Miami-Dade Public Library System	10,737		
First Baptist Church of Tallahassee	4,364	Monroe County Public Library	2,699		
City of Coral Gables	1,983	Florida Gulf Coast University Library	1,607		
Broward College Archives & Special Collections	1,214	Greater North Miami Historical Society	801		
Boynton Beach City Library Archives	400	Miami Shores Village Archives at Brockway Memorial Library	195		
Miami Design Preservation League, Closeup Productions	130	Leon High School, Tallahassee, Florida	82		
Godby High School, Tallahassee, Florida	51	Florida Atlantic University	46		
Havana History & Heritage Society, Havana, Florida	37	Vaclav Havel Library Foundation	14		
Florida State College at Jacksonville	1				

All SSDN and FSU partners are listed individually on the DPLA platform. <https://ssdn.dp.la/>.

It also allows for these organizations to provide greater access to these materials to their own communities and see how their history aligns with other organizations around them. For

example, FBC is close to FSU's campus. Many of FSU's students have attended FBC and appear in their church bulletins over the years. Sharing FBC's history allowed FSU to gain a new chapter in its own history of how its students contributed to the history of Tallahassee over time. Also, these partnerships help to show that FSU is invested in the wider community outside of our campus and that we have a shared history that should be celebrated.

In working with HHHS and their Gadsden County extension service scrapbooks, FSUL looked at our own collections and found extension scrapbooks for Leon County that we are now digitizing and adding to DigiNole to provide more digital objects about this part of North Florida history. Sometimes, it is through the content and materials our partners bring to

the table that we find a better understanding of FSUL's collections and how they relate to the history of our local area. A specific result, in this case, is bringing to light women's contributions to the history of the area as women were the primary leaders in the Gadsden and Leon Counties extension service programs. As Donna Warlick, a board member at the Havana History and Heritage Society, noted about their project, "Making these scrapbooks available to Gadsden County families is a significant tool for genealogists, historians, and others interested in Gadsden County's heritage. The scrapbooks provide a glimpse of the life in rural Gadsden County during the war years, as well as the hardships and achievements of those rural families. Miss Elise Lafitte's work to improve farm life and the opportunities for women is incredible. She should be recognized as a major force in our history. The included documents were

particularly significant. Gadsden County families owe a major debt of gratitude to Miss Lafitte."

Another outcome of this work is the preservation of the physical materials. As mentioned, we have re-housed physical materials for partners to ensure their longevity when



Mrs. Clyde Edwards plowing in her garden, 1942-1946, Havana History & Heritage Society http://purl.flvc.org/fdu/fdu/FDU_HHHS_Scrapbook_1942-1946_Photos_005

returned to their organizations. We've also provided assessment and training if desired to partners about how to best store and catalog their physical collections. We've found that some partners may not actually want to digitize all their holdings but are looking for some guidance on how to get a handle on their materials so they can better use them.

FSUL's main desired outcome of any partnership is that our partner gets the results they need to be good stewards of their collections moving forward. We feel we have been successful so far in this outcome as all of our community partnerships to date have come from word of mouth, with partners mentioning their experiences to other local organizations who then contact us for a potential partnership with their materials. Word of mouth has also had the effect of making organizations think about how their records and histories are important to share with a wider audience. We've often been asked, "Would people be interested in this sort of material?" and the answer has always been Yes! The organizations we worked with are often surprised and excited to understand how their small part of Tallahassee history fits into the bigger picture.

We are building capacity in the new connections that are being formed, and telling

Florida's stories on a world-wide stage through DPLA participation. "I am pleased at the tremendous work the Digital Public Library of America has done. The proof is in the pudding in the way the graduates of Godby High School have responded. Those who could not afford a yearbook or perhaps lost theirs over the years, are now able to enjoy those pictures and the accompanying fond memories. I am glad we took advantage of this amazing opportunity. It has been a total win-win proposition for all involved," wrote Desmond Cole, Godby High School Principal, one of FSUL's community partners.

In summation, this work is grounded in our values of expanding the reach of openly-available materials, dedication to constructive collaboration, a commitment to working at scale to advance the work and impact of the Florida cultural heritage community as a whole, and a belief in the value of equitable access to information as a public good.

Additional Resources

FSU Digital Library: DigiNole
https://fsu.digital.flvc.org/islandora/object/fsu:digital_library

Getting Started as a SSDN Content Contributor
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ePSACtkie97WHju6WiZllrHr-wqujgcq/view>.

Sunshine State Digital Network Metadata Participation Guidelines

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1wmjl8tBf3-0a3X8asPGPNhdCeGGM7PPVy2Xu9RxJpHU/edit?usp=sharing>.

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Photo by Lauren Mancke on Unsplash



SAVE THE DATE

Peer reviewed articles are coming to Florida Libraries this fall—join the team, either as a writer or reviewer!

Details are coming in early summer, but go ahead and start researching and writing—our deadline for peer reviewed articles is August 1st.

See page 9 for more details!

Book Leasing: Ownership vs. Access

Book Leasing at Valencia College Winter Park

By: Annie Rogers

Valencia College consists of a network of eight campuses across Orange and Osceola counties. Some of the Valencia campus libraries are quite large and have considerable resources, but for the little guys, like us in Winter Park, we need to be creative with our collection management policies. With a growing demand for computer workstations, our collection has shrunk significantly in the past few years. In an effort to drive up interest in the physical collection, but reduce indefinite growth of items, a book leasing program seemed to be the solution.

In Spring 2020 the Winter Park Campus began receiving books on a temporary basis from the McNaughton Lease program. In this program, the library budget pays a flat fee for a set number of credits which can be used to order books throughout the year. These books can be returned at any time throughout the contract, and therefore create a consistent flow of new content for patrons to browse. Their program website boasts that it will fill holds, meet patron demand, increase circulation, is the perfect option for limited shelf space, will not encumber funds and so is a hedge against budget shortfalls or freezes, and will create or enhance a browsing collection[1]

Book leasing has been around for decades, and there are many other groups offering the same service to libraries. The question does not lie with who is providing the service, but the overall benefit of the service itself.

Ownership vs. Access

In 2019, the launch of Disney's premium streaming service, Disney+, added another way for consumers to view thousands of hours of content, without owning any of it. While the concept of accessing content without owning it is not new, the technological growth of the 21st century has fast-tracked the concept. Compare the introduction of the iTunes music store in 2001 to Apple Music in 2015[2]. Apple has moved away from a model in which users curate a personal collection of music, and instead

consumers are encouraged to pay one flat rate to listen to as much music as they want, as long as they keep paying. Similarly, with book-leasing programs, libraries have access to thousands of titles without owning any of them.

With demand for new content rising rapidly in the age of instant gratification, is this a better model for collecting popular print items? As with services like Netflix and Spotify

Premium, book leasing becomes more cost effective when more content is consumed, and larger library systems consume massive amounts of books. For example, the Atlanta-Fulton Public Library System used 18 percent of their two million dollar budget on book leasing in 2018[3]. Conversely, the Winter Park campus library spends almost half of our annual print budget on book leasing. While this is a significant percentage of the budget, book leasing creates a consistent flow of new items into the collection. However, unlike streaming services, we get to keep a small percent of books every year.

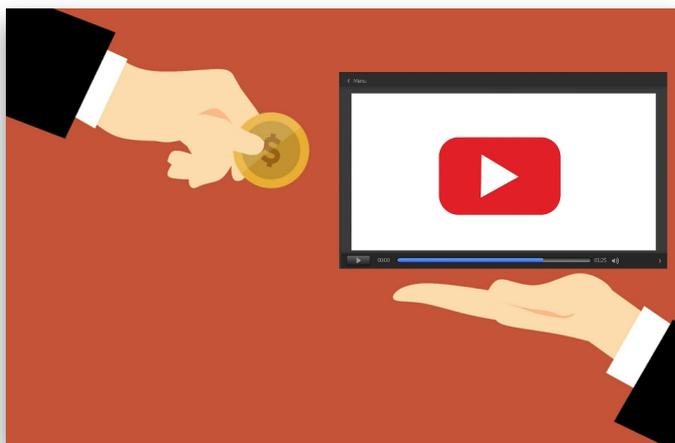


Image by [mohamedHassan](#) from [Pixabay](#)

Additionally, leasing costs roughly 25 percent less than an outright purchase of the same number of items. This allows us to re-route overall annual savings into collecting items that we would like to keep long-term, such as classic literature and course-related works. However, just like with access-based reading platforms like Scribd and Kindle Unlimited, there will always be an item that is not available to be leased. In that instance, the user or the library must decide if that item is important enough to buy outright. Other than that infrequent occurrence, the benefits for the library and its patrons far surpass the negatives.

Sustainability

On a grander scale, sustainability is a constant concern in our growing world. Not considering legal deposit libraries, most institutions will not be able to collect and maintain an infinitely-expanding collection. While weeding collections makes most book lovers cringe, librarians and library staff know how essential this process is to the well being of a library. During this process, best attempts are made to donate books to charity, give them away to patrons, or re-sell them. However, some books can't find another home and are simply thrown away. This is often the case for trendy and popular fiction, especially best-sellers that sold so well everyone has a copy, and no one needs another.

Book leasing, in partnership with libraries, gives a book the chance to be loved by many people. It also takes the responsibility off libraries and finds sustainable options for when it is time to weed older books. The parent company of McNaughton Lease, Brodart Books, has an environmental commitment to reduce, reuse, and recycle in all aspects of their operations. After a book's long life in various libraries, it can be sold to the used books market, given to employees, or ultimately recycled.[4]

Final Thoughts

Book leasing programs give libraries the freedom to grow and change along with their patrons. The role of a library in the community is not fading but adapting. Libraries will continue to be

essential, and book leasing is one of the ways we can keep up with changes in taste and fast-traveling information. When a small campus library like ours is free to collect as many popular books as patrons demand, we maintain relevance and benefit financially.

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Clearwater Librarian named NASA Solar System Ambassador

By: David Stoner



A group of CPLS patrons look on as Stoner demonstrates how to use the telescope.

presentations and star-gazing events to groups of all ages in Pinellas County for several years. He developed an interest in space early on, and at age 11 began showing the universe to neighborhood friends through his telescope. His enthusiasm continued when he eventually became a teacher, then a librarian.

The Clearwater Public Library System specializes in Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics (STEAM) programming, so David's additional role as a NASA volunteer ambassador lines up perfectly with the goals of Clearwater Library. The system has six assorted telescopes that



Stoner posing with CPLS's six telescopes.

Clearwater Public Library System Division Manager David Stoner has been named a Solar System Ambassador by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA) Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL). Just 1,035 volunteer ambassadors were chosen by NASA this year through a competitive selection process based on personal backgrounds and plans for public outreach activities. The program's main goal is to present informative and exciting programs about NASA missions that explore the solar system.

As a 25-year veteran of the Clearwater Library, David has been

delivering free space program

are used for

programming and outreach. The library

has also added several telescopes to its circulating collection for checkout by the public.

David will be hosting more than a dozen space-related programs this year while fulfilling his role as the Division Manager at Clearwater Public Library System and is receptive to more upon request. He can be reached through the JPL Solar System Ambassadors directory at <https://solarsystem1.jpl.nasa.gov/ssa/> and at <https://www.facebook.com/davidstonerSSA/>.



Stoner working with a group of teenagers at CPLS.

Remember Visually-Impaired Patrons when Considering Accessibility to Library Databases:

One Library's Exploration in Database Accessibility

By: Jacalyn Bryan, Renee Gould and Brittany Leigh

Research can be a daunting task for patrons, especially when we take into account the numerous websites and databases that are available. It is no surprise that many of our patrons may struggle and be overwhelmed by the vast array of resources. Now imagine trying to navigate those same resources with a visual impairment. According to Disability Statistics, about 2.3 percent of the United States population has a visual disability; however, what the term “visual disability” entails is subject to debate.¹ The National Federation of the Blind states that “there are no generally accepted definitions for ‘visually impaired,’ ‘low vision,’ or ‘vision loss.’”² As a result, it’s difficult to fully recognize exactly how many of our patrons are struggling with navigating library websites and resources. What we do know is that we have a responsibility to our patrons to make their resources as accessible as possible.

Not only is this required by law, since our university receives federal funding, it is encouraged by the values upheld by our university and by the American Library Association.³ Saint Leo University is a mid-sized, private institution located just north of Tampa, Florida. The university is rooted in the

Benedictine tradition and incorporates seven core values into its mission. The values of community and respect are most relevant to our quest to ensure that our users have resources that they can access successfully.

Our investigation began with a question from a colleague in the Office of Accessibility

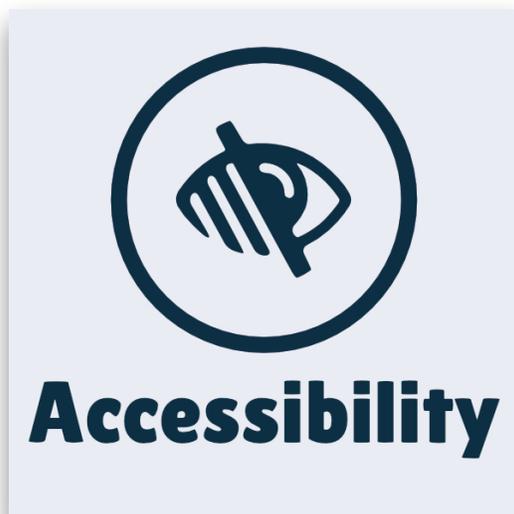
Services regarding how to make our databases more accessible for our visually-impaired patrons. We often take for granted that the products created by our vendors are compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, both of which protect individuals from being discriminated against on the basis of disability. However, meeting these legal requirements does not guarantee that a database will be fully accessible to those with visual impairments.⁴ The accessibility of vendor databases has been reviewed in several studies. Tatomir and Durrance found that 72 percent of the thirty-two databases they evaluated were marginally accessible or inaccessible.⁵ This may partly be due to the fact that although most vendors perform in-house testing on their products for accessibility, they do not always test the products with actual users with disabilities.⁶

While assistive technologies are available to make these products more accessible, it should be noted that they do add a layer of complexity to the process.⁷

In examining our own library website, we discovered that although our catalog and databases might technically be compliant, they are not easy to navigate for those with visual impairments. In fact, through our discussion with our colleague, we learned that a visually-impaired student once complained that it took over half an hour just to navigate to a

desired database. Thirty minutes is enough of a delay to discourage patrons from using the library resources. We needed to find a quick and immediately-deployable solution for our patrons.

The solution that we chose was LibGuides, a product of SpringShare. The What You See Is

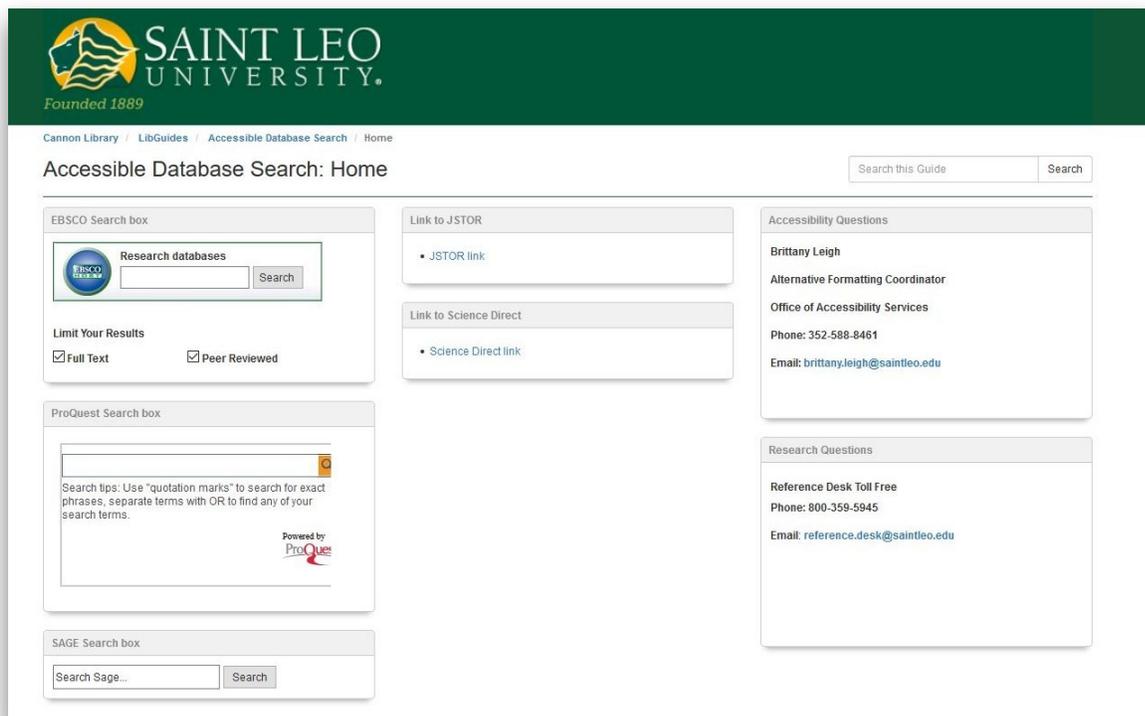


What You Get (WYSIWYG) interface for content creation and editing, as well as the ease of use and searchability by the user have made this product a key resource for many libraries. Most importantly, LibGuides also allows easy incorporation of vendor-provided search widgets for select databases.

We had hoped that our new LibGuide, dedicated to greater accessibility of our library resources, would serve as a go-to solution for our patrons with visual disabilities.

The creation of the LibGuide itself was rather easy. We chose to work with five of our databases as a modest starting point, and we relied heavily on the pre-existing widgets created by three of our vendors. These widgets provide search boxes that allow users to easily type in keywords of their choice and instantly search a database. Deploying these widgets on our LibGuide consisted simply of navigating to the vendor-provided code and copying and pasting it into our template. However, not all of our vendors provided this easy copy-and-paste option. For our vendors that did not provide widgets, we chose to simply provide a link to the database. With time and use we will be able to tell what patrons need, and we can continue to add more databases or remove them depending on our patrons' needs.

It is important to recognize that “an understanding of how a person with disabilities experiences the online environment can help point the way toward improved accessibility.”⁸ Bearing this in mind, we decided to see how our new LibGuide worked with screen reading software—in this case, a trial version of JAWS 2018, which our colleague in the Office of Accessibility Services possessed. Our first



impression was that it was quite challenging to follow the screen reader even without a visual impairment. We recognized that this might become easier once we became more accustomed to the software. Despite our lack of familiarity, we were able to successfully navigate our new LibGuide with ease. However, when performing searches in several databases we noticed that the results pages were particularly tedious to navigate due to the quantity of readable elements being narrated by Jaws. Ironically this is exactly what we were trying to avoid in the first place. We discovered that setting the preferences option in one database (EBSCO) to “Title Only” removed extra information on the results page. We believe that could improve the user’s experience. This option does not appear to be universal, and every database has its own set of challenges to be reconciled by anyone using screen reading software. One can only hope that with more use and time, database navigability will improve.

The creation of a LibGuide geared toward greater database accessibility, featuring minimal text and providing easy search options, is a starting point for our library. We would need to go through our university’s Internal Review Board (IRB) to obtain permission to further investigate the effectiveness of this solution. Following the approval of the IRB, we would be able to survey our users with visual disabilities and discuss with them the pros and cons of the

LibGuide. This would provide us with more insight as to how we could modify the LibGuide to meet our patrons' needs. With the documented results of our survey in hand, we would proceed to initiate a discussion with our vendors on the topic of accessibility. We need to express to our vendors that improving the navigation and use for our patrons who have visual impairments would not only help them but would serve to help the wider community of users as well.

Accessibility is an increasingly important issue. The librarians at Saint Leo are extremely grateful for the collaboration of our colleague in the Office of Accessibility Services. Her knowledge and interest served as the impetus to create the accessible LibGuide. If you are interested in raising awareness or simply learning new ways of ensuring accessibility, don't hesitate to reach out to your university's office of accessibility or disability services. The most important step is starting a conversation.

Notes

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GeekFest Sees Tremendous Growth in Town of Astor

By: Jonathan Dolce

GeekFest, a celebration of engineering, writing, art, and music, started modestly and has taken root in our unique, rural community. Five years ago, we had no idea just how far GeekFest would go. In 2015, we had about a dozen exhibitors, a number that has since tripled. This improbable experiment could only have flourished in Astor, Florida, an unusual town that straddles the St. John's River and both Lake and Volusia counties. Roughly 1,500 year-round residents call Astor home, and that number doubles to 3,000 in the winter. The town also sits at the tip of 33 miles of bear crossing. So, a Geek Fest may seem like it would be unpopular, but with dedication, teamwork and a passion for all things geek, the road to this distinctive annual event was paved.

In fact, the GeekFest earned the 2020 Public Library Association's EBSCO Excellence in Small/Rural Public Library Service award, which is an annual, national award given to only one public library in the United States. GeekFest bolsters team spirit across departments, including Parks & Trails, Lake County Sheriff's Office, Lake County Office of Fire Rescue, and of course Library Services. And GeekFest reflects what we all aspire to, which is excellence in library programming through an enriching experience for all who attend. Even more than this is the importance of collaboration between local agencies and a support of local talent and artisans.

GeekFest brings together youth engineering groups, writers, artisans and musicians of all ages, and groups from all across Central Florida. A few past exhibitors have included the Society for Creative Anachronism; R2D2 Builders of Central Florida; Renaissance Robotics Team 5937; and the Ocklawaha Sutler. This collection of exhibitors represents the support of Central Florida groups, and aids greatly in putting the community of Astor on the map, literally and digitally. This innovative program features volunteer educational groups and exhibitors who create while also educating attendees.

It would be impossible to discuss GeekFest without also discussing the festival's brainchild, Elise VanCise. Elise's enthusiasm and creativity are infectious, and inspired many of her teammates' costumes. Indeed, my own steampunk Darth Vader costume went on to win awards! But the real benefit of GeekFest is what it accomplishes. This festival aids in recruiting new volunteers for the county and members for the Friends of Astor County Library. Local agencies, such as Kiwanis, the Chamber of Commerce, Moose Lodge, and Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) have members who are a part of our programming, be it in representing their agency, or in the donation of their time. The spirit of partnership is critical to our programming and GeekFest is instrumental in maintaining close ties.

Author

Jonathan Dolce is currently branch supervisor of Astor and Paisley County Libraries in north Lake County, Florida, where he has been serving for the past five years. Prior to that, Jonathan was head of youth services at Athens-Clarke County Library for a one-year stint, Maitland Public Library for five years, and Volusia County Library system for five years. "It's been an amazing ride. I've thoroughly enjoyed serving the information and entertainment needs of Central Florida library patrons, and demonstrating all that is possible via quality public library services". Catch up with Jonathan at ALSC's blog every month or at the annual FLA conference!

Solar-Powered Oven Activities make Summer Youth Programs Sizzle!

By: Rebecca Greer

Most meetings are better when food is served, and that is especially true for youth activities at the library. One of my most successful programs has not only included food, but the program attendees have cooked the food themselves, in solar-powered ovens that we make together.

Every summer since I became a librarian I have hosted the same program, and it has been one of my most well-attended programs of the entire summer. We have been very fortunate that



Completed Solar-Powered Oven ready for cooking in!

our Solar-Powered Ovens program has never been rained out, and I try to schedule it at midday when the sun is at its peak, to help speed up the cooking process. This program teaches kids construction skills, cooking skills, and how to follow instructions.

Each program starts off with instructions that we follow together, step-by-step, as a group,

and the teens often help one another out. I typically enlist at least two teen volunteers to assist the younger kids if they're having difficulty, they also help with getting the supplies set up for each station. The supplies for the solar-powered oven are very simple:

- * Pizza box
- * Black construction paper
- * Plastic wrap
- * Aluminum foil
- * Scissors
- * Scotch tape
- * Rulers
- * *Optional: Dowel rod or pencil to hold the pizza box open.

There should be enough pizza boxes for all attendees, I try to limit the program to 20 people to ensure there are enough materials for everyone and that the group is small enough that people will be able to follow instructions. Tables were set up with materials at each seat, but with tools for putting the items together, like scotch tape and scissors in the center for sharing.



Kids working on their Solar-Powered Ovens

Putting the box together takes approximately thirty minutes, this includes assembling food inside the box. I do not recommend putting in any food, such as raw meat that needs to be cooked to a specific temperature in order to be safe to eat. Instead I recommend this program as a way to heat food, food that can be melted makes it easy to know when it is ready and it looks especially appetizing once it melts.



Ovens outside positioned to face the sun and cooking traditional S'mores.

I have made a variety of recipes over the years. We have made s'mores with toasty marshmallows and melted chocolate, flatbread pizza with plenty of cheese and optional pepperoni, and nachos with a variety of toppings. Nachos were one of my personal favorites since the oven takes 60-90 minutes to heat the food. We were able to use that cooking time to prepare additional toppings for the nachos, like cutting jalapeños, green onions, and tomatoes. For the other programs we broke out board games for the teens to play while waiting for cooking to finish. Board games are easy to take breaks from to check on the food. The games can also be a great way to bring additional socialization to the program as teens who don't know each other are willing to play games together to make the time pass faster.

After the food is melted, it's a great idea to offer drinks to go with the food.



Kids working on toppings for nachos while they heat up outside.

Everyone sits back down at the preparation tables and gets to try out their creation. Some teens want to bring their food home for later, and since it's already in a pizza box that is a convenient take-home box, but I also offer plastic bags if they want to try

to keep their box clean. They can reuse their box as often as they like as long as they take out the black construction paper on the bottom of the box that the food is cooked on.

Box Instructions:

1. Assemble pizza box - I typically use mini pizza boxes which I order on online, they are easier to bring home after the program if they wish to reuse and take up less space.
2. Measure 1 inch on every side of pizza box, and



Kids making measurements for flap on box.

cut out 3 sides to make a flap opening.

3. Cover flap opening with plastic wrap and tape to box, try to stretch as tightly as possible – This will trap heat and condensation to cook food.
4. Wrap foil around the cardboard flap, try to keep as smooth as possible to keep shiny and reflect the sun onto the food.
5. Tape black construction paper inside box - The black color will absorb heat and the paper can be changed out each time new food is cooked
6. Optional – To keep flap up and sun directed onto food, use dowel rod or pencil to position flap and foil onto food



Teens showing off their complete solar-powered oven.

Summer Youth Program Recipes



S'mores cooked in solar-powered oven and ready to eat.

S'Mores

Ingredients:

- * Graham Crackers
- * Jumbo marshmallows
- * Chocolate Bars

Recipe:

Make an open-faced s'mores sandwich by putting graham crackers in the pizza box, place 2 chocolate squares on top and cover with 1 jumbo-sized marshmallow. Cook until chocolate is melted and marshmallow is lightly toasted.

Flatbread Pizza

Ingredients:

- * Flatbread (cooked and packed from store)
- * Pizza Sauce
- * Pepperoni
- * Mozzarella Cheese
- * Assorted vegetable toppings, for example. black olives, red onions, etc

Recipe:

Put flatbread on a plate or in the bottom of the pizza box, cover with pizza sauce and cheese. Optional: add pepperoni or other toppings.



Flatbread pizza ready to be cooked, with additional foil on top to better reflect the sun



Cooked fully loaded nachos (partially eaten).

Nachos

Ingredients:

- * Tortilla chips
- * Mexican Cheese Blend
- * Refried Beans
- * Green Onions
- * Jalapeños, jarred
- * Tomatoes
- * Sour Cream
- * Guacamole

Recipe:

To avoid a very gooey box assemble tortilla chips on a plate, cover with nacho cheese and Mexican cheese blend. Heat until cheese is melted. Option: Added refried beans before putting outside to heat. While tortilla chips are cooking, attendees can cut additional toppings such as green onions, tomatoes, and jalapeños. Can also add sour cream or guacamole as a final topping.