

# PROFESSIONAL INTERNSHIPS IN THE LIBRARIES

BY SUZANNE STAPLETON

## INTERNSHIPS IN THE LIBRARIES

The George A. Smathers Libraries at the University of Florida offers graduate students unique opportunities for professional development working alongside librarians and academic faculty through the Smathers Graduate Student Internship Program. Since the summer of 2016, the Smathers Graduate Student Internship Program has supported 33 graduate student interns over 50 semesters, cumulatively. These internships foster transformative interdisciplinary collaborations. Librarians serve as Internship Directors and team up with academic faculty to design an internship experience lasting one to three semesters. Internships mirror the breadth of expertise in the Libraries.



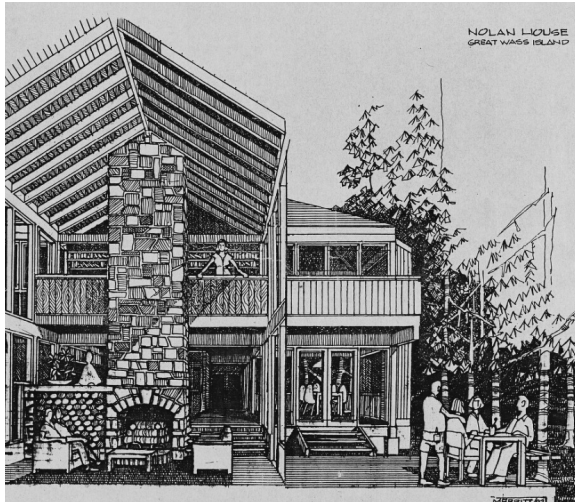
### BIBLIOGRAPHIC AND DIGITAL INTERNSHIP FOR BLACK EDUCATION IN FLORIDA, 1920–1955

Stephanie Birch, African American Studies Librarian, consulted with Dr. Diedre Houchen from the UF Center for the Study of Race & Race Relations to sponsor the Bibliographic and Digital Internship for Black Education in Florida, 1920-1955. In the first semester of the year-long internship, Delreese Martin, a second year UF law student conducted in-depth archival research for the exhibition forthcoming October 2018, "Black Educators: Florida's Secret Advocates for Social Justice." This exhibition will be located in the Smathers Gallery with corresponding displays at the Law Library and at the A. Quinn Jones Museum in Gainesville. Martin's ongoing work includes the creation of an annotated bibliography, Libguide, gallery guide, and an exhibition marketing plan to support the exhibition. The internship provides practical experiences in project management, document handling, review, and assessment, as well as broader familiarity with concepts and best practices in archival research, African American history and educational history, especially as they relate to developing exhibitions for the public and University community.



### INTERNSHIP IN ONLINE EXHIBITIONS

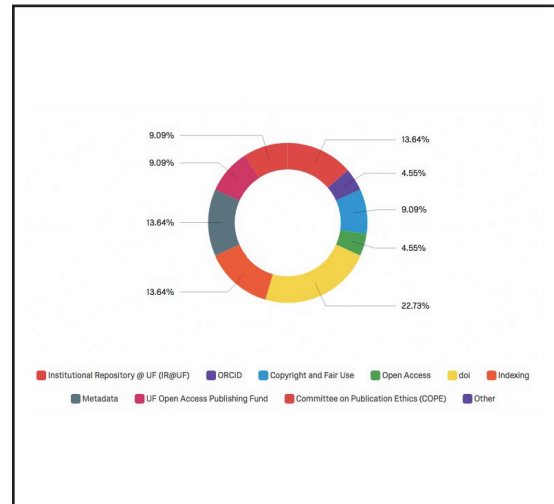
Mara Reynolds, a graduate student in Museum Studies, formulated best practices for translating a physical library exhibition into an online format and audience. Lourdes Santamaría-Wheeler, Library Exhibits Coordinator and Briley Rasmussen, Museum Studies Director at UF supervised the Internship in Online Exhibitions. Reynolds researched online exhibits from galleries, libraries, archives, and museums and conducted a literature review to develop her own list of best practices for online exhibits. The intern designed an online exhibition utilizing interpretive text and the object list from the previous physical exhibition: *Science is the Religion of Our Time: Einstein in Japan* (<http://exhibits.uflib.ufl.edu/Einstein>). The internship enhanced Reynolds classroom learning of curatorial practice, public history, and visual design and benefitted the Libraries by providing a larger audience to our materials.



### INTERNSHIP IN ARCHITECTURE ARCHIVES

Clarissa Carr, PhD student in the College of Design, Construction, and Planning processed the Library's archival collection of Harry Merritt, a mid-century architect and professor at UF from 1959–1996. In 2015, one of Merritt's designs was nominated to the National Registry of Historic Places as an excellent example of the Modern Movement. Jessica Aberle, Architecture Librarian, offered this internship in Architecture Archives with Morris Hylton III, the Director of UF Historic Preservation Program in the School of Architecture. The UF Historic Preservation Program highlights an extraordinarily creative period in Gainesville's development and examines architectural trends of the post-war era. Carr selected 50 items to digitize from the collection of architectural drawings, slides, photographs, typed writings and a film interview. She developed a companion exhibit, *The Nature of an Architect*, to explain the regional design influences of Merritt's work in Florida and Maine. The significance of Gainesville's mid-century architecture as a foundation for current development and growth was discussed with the public at the Matheson History Museum. Through this opportunity Carr was able to not only gain experience working in an archive but she also was able to lend her expertise to the processing of the collection.

The Smathers Graduate Student Internship Program engages academic faculty, librarians and students to promote greater use of library collections and services and provide professional training to graduate students. Each semester graduate student interns enrich their academic pursuits with professional development in the library through this program. Based on the resounding success of the Graduate Internship Program, its committee has been charged to serve as the guiding coalition to create a new undergraduate diversity fellowship program to expose students from underrepresented groups to career opportunities in academic libraries — with the goal of contributing to the diversity of the field.



### LIBRARY PUBLISHING WITH FLORIDA ONLINE JOURNALS

Hannah Toombs, PhD candidate in Anthropology, participated in the Internship in Library Publishing with Florida Online Journals. The experience exceeded her expectations. In addition to enhancing her skills in classifying collections, Toombs gained practical knowledge in academic publishing. Suzanne Stapleton, Agricultural Sciences & Digital Initiatives Librarian teamed up with Mark Ritenour, Horticultural Sciences Professor, and Christy Shorey, Manager of the IR@UF to introduce Toombs to the emerging field of library scholarly publishing. Toombs surveyed editors using Florida Online Journals, a digital publishing platform available to the UF community, and learned about open access and the peer review process. "Understanding what this field is like and all the pieces that go into publishing is super important to me as a scholar.... This internship has opened a lot of doors for me and given me a lot of new skills, so, it's been a really valuable experience." Toombs shared.