

AFFILIATED LIBRARIES FEATURE SPECIALIZED COLLECTIONS

Authors:

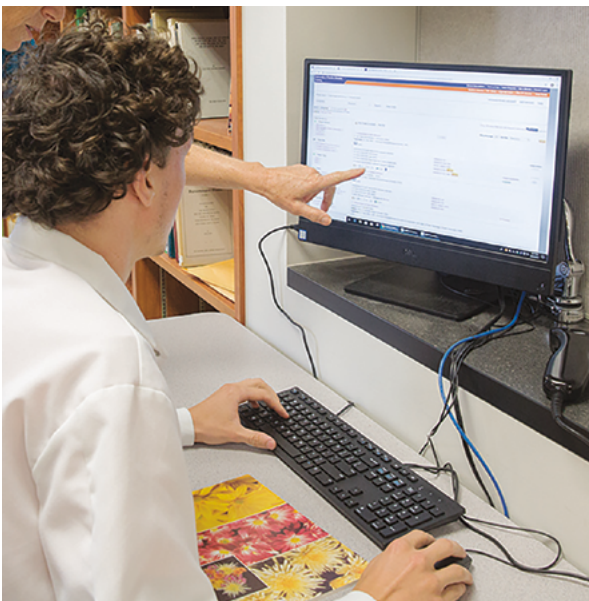
Jorge Gonzalez
Cataloging Liaison

Suzanne Stapleton
Agricultural Sciences &
Digital Scholarship Librarian

Ann Baird
Design Librarian,
Architecture and Fine Arts Library



**Did you know
that searches
in the UF library
catalog may lead
you to discover
specialized collections
throughout the state?**



Digital access to library content can transport us nearly anywhere. Yet still it feels good to be in a library – the physical space set aside for learning. To hold a book in hand, scan a bookshelf for related titles that catch your interest, or strike up conversation with a fellow scholar can lead to unexpected serendipity. Flipping through the architectural designs of *Floating Houses: Living Over the Water* (Martinez, 2018), for instance, the imagination is unmoored to reconsider sustainable living that can move with the tides.

Leafing through the pages of a *Compendium of Crop Diseases* might remind you why they say a picture is worth a thousand words. The American Phytopathological Society publishes this picture-laden series of booklets of diseases that infect over 25 crops grown in Florida. In the University of Florida Institute of Food & Agricultural

Jorge Gonzalez

Cataloging Liaison

“It has been an enriching experience to do liaison work with the affiliate and IFAS extension libraries. It was a great opportunity over the past 21 years to learn about our off-campus libraries, get to travel to them, share my cataloging knowledge with them, and help new affiliates get off the ground.”



Sciences (UF/IFAS) Plant Diagnostic Center Library, plant science scholars can scan the images in this series, looking for matches to telltale symptoms found in a specimen under a nearby microscope.

It might be a surprise to learn that the Smathers Libraries have ten affiliated libraries throughout the state. Housed in buildings from Gainesville to Homestead, each affiliated library has built a unique collection, centered on a specific field of study. Each affiliate invites students, faculty, and the public to use items in their library. The partnerships between the

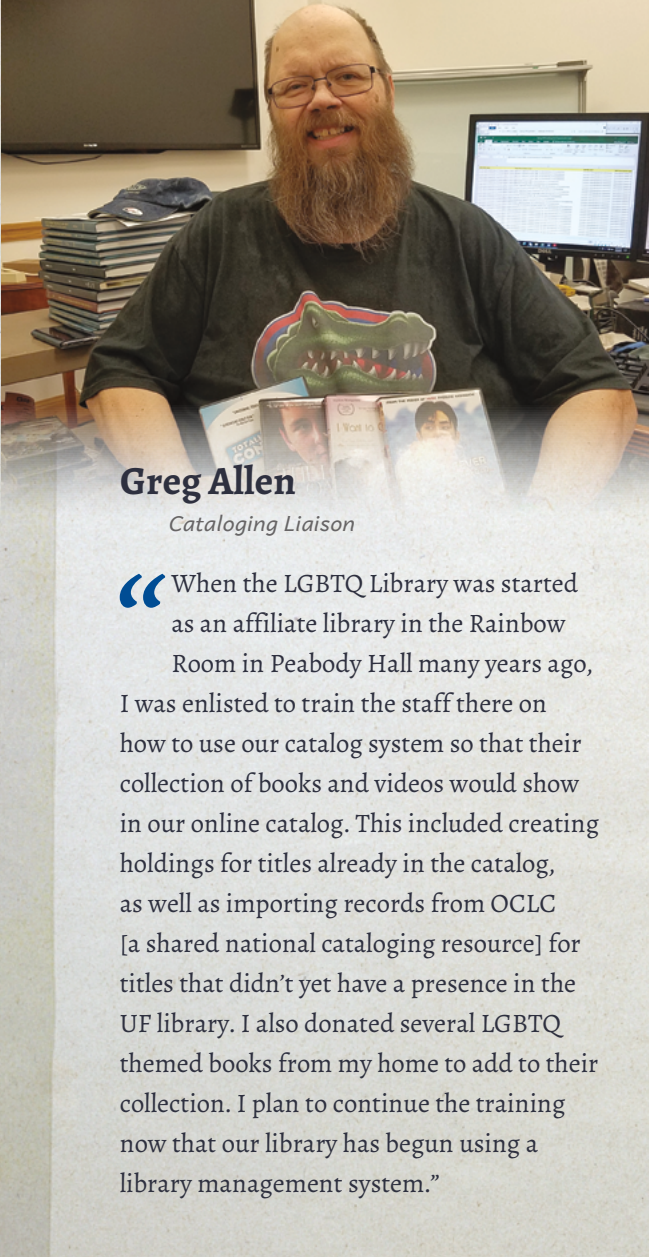
University of Florida and the Affiliated Libraries enable items in these far-flung physical collections to be discovered through the UF library catalog.

Collections at these satellite libraries range from several hundred to several thousand books. The largest collection, with over 12,800 items, is held at the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Division of Plant Industry (Fig.1). This affiliated library lies adjacent to UF's main campus in Gainesville and provides a rich source of materials related to protecting agriculture and natural resources in the state. The UF/IFAS Tropical Research and Education Center Library is one of several affiliated libraries serving faculty and students in the agricultural sciences. This article features three affiliated libraries: City-Lab Orlando, the UF/IFAS Plant Diagnostic Center Library, and the Tamara Cohen LGBTQ+ Resource Center Library.

In days before the internet was developed and publications became digital, most centers of scholarship maintained their own collections of books and journals nearby, enabling researchers to keep up with advances in their field. Today, many of these spaces have been repurposed and the “library” is typically browsed on desktop computers or mobile devices. But there are types of study that continue to benefit from nearby physical collections. These physical collections may include an assortment of maps, tools, artifacts, photographs, and memorabilia. In the University of Florida Herbarium Library, for instance, botanical illustrations and plant specimen card files are found along with field guides and reference books for accurate identification of Florida fauna. At CityLab-Orlando, patrons can check out samples of interior-design materials.

Fig.1 - Example from collection





Greg Allen

Cataloging Liaison

“When the LGBTQ Library was started as an affiliate library in the Rainbow Room in Peabody Hall many years ago, I was enlisted to train the staff there on how to use our catalog system so that their collection of books and videos would show in our online catalog. This included creating holdings for titles already in the catalog, as well as importing records from OCLC [a shared national cataloging resource] for titles that didn’t yet have a presence in the UF library. I also donated several LGBTQ themed books from my home to add to their collection. I plan to continue the training now that our library has begun using a library management system.”



TAMARA COHEN LGBTQ RESOURCE CENTER LIBRARY

Sexual orientation was added to the University’s anti-discrimination policy in 2003. The following year an inclusive diversity policy was adopted and the Office of LGBT Affairs opened with Tamara Cohen as Director. As favorite and influential books were shared, a collection began to take shape. L.B. Hannahs, then LGBT Affairs Director, launched this affiliated library in 2012 in the Rainbow Room in Peabody Hall. Greg Allen, in the Smathers Libraries Cataloging and Discovery Services department assisted with cataloging the materials. Now located in the LGBTQ+ Affairs office in J. Wayne Reitz Union Suite 2210, this collection of nearly 800 titles supports the various multidisciplinary LGBTQ-related programs on campus.

Materials range from poetry and fiction to nonfiction legal summaries, histories, and handbooks for affirming diverse campuses. Titles address the intersection of gender identity with racial, cultural, and other biases. Unique titles expand the main library’s collection to include Gloria Steinem’s *Revolution from Within: a Book of Self-esteem* (1992), *The Love Songs of Sappho* (1998), and the *Advocate College Guide for LGBT Students* (2006). The Tamara Cohen LGBTQ+ Resource Center Library offers a safe space for respite and reflection in the convenience of the student union.


<https://lgbtq.multicultural.ufl.edu/programs/tamara-cohen-resource-library/>

Each affiliated library provides their own staff to caretaker their collection. These caretakers have broad knowledge of the specific subject matter of the library’s holdings and implement best collection management practices. The affiliated libraries’ caretaker keeps up to date on the latest information technology and consults with the Smathers Libraries on newly developed bibliographic instructions and changes to cataloging rules and procedures. Library caretakers promote their collections, provide reference assistance, and develop

local circulation policies.

Smathers Libraries support these collections with a cataloging liaison, a subject specialist liaison, and the Affiliated Libraries Working Group. Jorge Gonzalez is the cataloging liaison who helps most affiliated libraries add materials to the library database, install cataloging software, and train staff. Subject specialist liaison librarians provide bibliographic instruction to affiliate staff and their local researchers.

Even as digital content dominates libraries today, the affiliated library program enables

specialized physical collections to be listed in the library catalog and used in creative ways throughout the state. If you find yourself nearby one of our affiliated libraries, you’re invited to stop in and browse! 



For more info including a list of all Affiliated Libraries contact info and hours:

<https://uflib.ufl.edu/libraries-collections/affiliated/>