

Special Series

# SIBRACIES

**Brian W. Keith** – SERIES EDITOR

*Associate Dean for Administrative Services and Faculty Affairs*

## Welcome to the second issue of the SOURCE series on libraries spaces!

We have again asked library personnel who know the spaces best to tell the stories. In this way you will not only learn about the spaces, but have a glimpse at the expertise, commitment, and creativity of my colleagues. In the spring issue we heard about Library West. In this issue we will hear from two decidedly small but prepossessing spaces: the Isser and Rae Price Library of Judaica, and the Architecture and Fine Arts Library. The Price Library since its creation has been a work of dedication and vision, by the Price family and others at UF and in the Libraries. Once neglected and inaccessible to the public, but rehabilitated by Kenneth Treister, it is now a space where library materials, furnishings, art, and architecture harmonize. The Architecture

and Fine Arts Library is a small branch physically and academically integrated into the colleges it serves. The limited space presents challenges, but the dedicated staff were able to envision major changes, and through their commitment preserved the architectural integrity of the mid-century design. We will also hear the story of the Todd C. Prosser Memorial Garden: an oasis adjacent to Smathers Library named in honor of Todd Prosser, a UF graduate who died early in life. It is a lasting tribute to his memory, on a campus that Todd loved, and the space has several interesting stories to tell as part of UF history. These three special spaces are quite different, but each is a story of change, legacy-building, and community.



## A CLOSER LOOK

In this issue, we will also hear from the Conservation & Preservation and Digital Support Services departments. Conservation & Preservation applies modern science and centuries-old craftsmanship to care for rare and at-risk items. Digital Support Services sprung from the field of preservation, with the advent of the internet. Through digitization, unique library holdings are made accessible to UF students, international researchers, and everyday people seeking information about their cultural heritage. In these behind-the-scenes stories, you will learn about the development of these departments, their challenging growth in spaces borrowed from other library operations, and how they eventually found their way to facilities well suited for their unique needs.

### **ALL OF THE SPACES IN THIS SERIES REFLECT THEMES THAT COMBINE TO REVEAL A STORY OF LIBRARIES AT UF. TO NAME A FEW:**

- The increasing demands of a growing university and its evolving instruction, learning and research models.
- The adoption of new technologies to enhance impacts of the UF libraries.
- An appreciation for aesthetics in enhancing visitor experiences, the maintaining of historic spaces as entrusted legacies, and continuous repurposing.
- Commitments to expanding equity and inclusion for the UF community.

In closing, I hope you enjoy this second installment in this *SOURCE* series and the noteworthy stories collected here.

*With all well wishes to you and yours, thank you for reading.*



Brian W. Keith

