

THE HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER LIBRARY

IN GAINESVILLE



19 MILLION NECESSARY
**University Approved
As Med School Site**

House, Senate Education Committees Favor
Location; Appropriation Up To Legislature

By Ralph Olive

The House and Senate Education Committees have approved the University as the site for the proposed state medical school. The bill has not yet been passed in legislature. George F. Baughman, business manager of the University, said Wednesday that he had received no recent information on the school.

Several obstacles still stand in the way. If the bill does pass the House and Senate, the required

Growing For A
Greater Gatorland

The Florida Alligator

Sunshine State's
Largest Weekly

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA, GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA

FRIDAY, MAY 20, 1949

Record Graduating Class Of 967 To Receive Degrees June 6

**Gen. Lowry
Meets
On Bo**



A STATE MEDICAL SCHOOL AT UF WAS NOT A FORGONE CONCLUSION:

In 1947, the legislature funded a study to determine if medical and dental colleges were needed in Florida. The following year the state Board of Control and the Board of Education appointed a Committee with Dr. Vernon Lippard, dean of Louisiana State University School of Medicine, as head. In 1949, the Lippard Report was filed, authorizing a medical school, nursing school, and dental school, and recommending Gainesville as the site. By legislative act, Gainesville was selected as the official site for the state medical school. Throughout the 1950's the deans of the first health colleges are hired, and instruction begins.

Above: *Florida Alligator*, May 20, 1949.

Above: George Harrell, first dean of the College of Medicine, explaining Health Center visions.

Top image: Aerial view of J. Hillis Miller Health Center, 1958; includes Archer Road and the future home of the Veterans Administration Hospital.



Hannah F. Norton CHAIR, HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER LIBRARY - GAINESVILLE
Nina Stoyan-Rosenzweig HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER ARCHIVIST

The history of the Health Science Center Library and the space it occupies is intimately tied to the history of the Health Science Center’s founding and the unique vision of first College of Medicine Dean and Health Center planner Dr. George T. Harrell. In 1949, the Lippard Commission determined that the University of Florida at Gainesville should be the site of the state medical school. Once this decision was made, UF President J. Hillis Miller initiated the Medical Center Study to plan for an integrated health center. This study’s findings detailed current and predicted health needs for the state of Florida and included specific plans for multiple colleges to meet these needs. First as part of an organizing committee and then as Dean, Dr. Harrell served as the primary planner of the entire health science center, creating a staged series of construction goals starting with the medical science building, large auditorium, and library for the Colleges of Nursing and Medicine.

Harrell worked with numerous UF employees and community members to create a teaching hospital, move the College of Pharmacy from main campus, create a college bringing together health professions (then known as the College of Health-Related Services, now the College of Public Health and Health Professions), and provide plans for adding a dental school and college of veterinary medicine (which ultimately welcomed their first cohorts of students in 1972 and 1976, respectively).

For Dean George Harrell, libraries were an essential component of a health center and he believed in teaching students that “their continuing life-long self-education revolves around the literature.” (George T. Harrell oral history interview, p. 68—<https://ufdc.ufl.edu/UF00006268/00001/citation/66>). At the University of Florida, his first hire was library director Fred Bryant. Bryant joined the staff before construction was completed, and traveled widely, purchasing books and journals, amassing a considerable collection.



Above: History exhibit—highlighting the arrival and planting of the Hippocratic tree: a sapling acquired in 1969 from the island of Kos, which was home to Hippocrates.

In fact, the strength of the collection may well have convinced potential hires to join the health center faculty. Thomas Maren, first chair of the pharmacology department, said, “It was virtually all in place and a wonderful library from day one. Harrell was very smart to do that. I would not have come here otherwise.” (Thomas Maren oral history interview—<https://ufdc.ufl.edu/UF00006262/00001/citation>).

When the library opened in 1956, it occupied two floors in the first Health Center building—a building that served existing colleges and contained basic functions including animal care facilities and classrooms, as well as offices and research labs. The library’s two floors were above the main auditorium, and remained there for two decades. During that time, the library collections continued to grow, and with them the health science center itself grew, adding more colleges, increasing class size, and adding more faculty and staff, clinicians and researchers. Eventually, collections and study space demands exceeded the facility size, and when the Communicore Building opened in 1974 the library moved there, occupying three floors. The Communicore building was created to provide a focal point for education in all of the health science center colleges, so centering the library in this inclusive space was vital. Ted Srygley, who started

as library director in 1966, was recruited as director in large part because he had experience with computers, and worked to develop a plan for computerizing the library as well as planning the new library and move. The move itself took less than a week as 150,000 books and journals, as well as support services, were relocated.

With space needs answered by the move into its current location, the library developed its technology offerings and reference service model in the ensuing decades. Although Ted Srygley was hired because of his background in computer use, he felt the size of mainframe computers and the complexity of using stacks of computer cards meant that computers in the 1960s and 1970s weren’t yet helpful for most library applications. Instead, Srygley focused on setting up a computerized serials collection list. As the library added staff, it also developed reference capabilities and what Srygley called a “service plan” that would allow reference librarians to specialize. Thus in the 1980s, the library began to develop a liaison model, allowing librarians to develop in-depth expertise to work with clinicians and researchers in specific disciplines; the liaison model was formalized in the 1990s.

Fast-forwarding to 2010, HSCL faculty and staff began preparing to embark on the library’s first major renovation since its move to the Communicore building. An important early step was



Above: View of the original library.



Above: Kalliope Sirmopoulos, head of the Library's media reserve section checking out a skull in the original library's media and reserve desk.

gaining input directly from the library's users. Health Science Center students, faculty, and staff were invited to participate in a survey and focus groups addressing what they liked about the current library space, what was missing, and what they would like in an ideal library. Overall, users spoke highly of the balance between group study/collaborative spaces and those for individual, quiet study; they were also enthusiastic about the technology available in the library, including large-screen monitors. To improve the space, they wanted more technology and electric outlets for their own devices, more group study space, and modern, comfortable furniture.

Given this feedback, along with the support of the Senior Vice President for Health Affairs, HSCL leadership engaged architects to redesign the first floor, featuring open, flexible space, additional collaboration stations, and a modern, inviting Information Desk. To make this vision a reality, HSCL staff weeded the print collections, removing journal volumes duplicated by electronic subscriptions or held in other libraries across campus. This allowed staff to consolidate the print journal collection from two floors to one, shift the print books and reference materials off of the first floor, and move forward with the full first-floor renovation in 2012-2013.



Above: Bhumi Patel, Health Science Center Library student assistant holding a HSC anatomical model.

WHAT MAKES HEALTH SCIENCES LIBRARIES DIFFERENT?

Like other academic libraries, health sciences libraries serve students, instructors, and researchers; in addition, they support the information needs of healthcare providers (clinicians) and consumers (patients and the general public). This fits into a vision of **“improv[ing] health through essential contributions to patient care, discovery, teaching, and learning”** (Association of Academic Health Sciences Libraries). <https://www.aahsl.org/strategic-plan>

At the HSCL, this translates into helping clinicians quickly find up-to-date information for patient care and opening our building and services to the general public for their health information needs.



THE ARCHIVAL COLLECTION AND ITS IMPACT

The HSC Archives, created in 2001 as part of the library, contains historical materials from the six colleges in the Health Science Center and the Vice President for Health Affairs. The materials in these collections help describe the discussions and unique planning process that led to the founding of the Center and significant events in its evolution and include administrative records, oral histories from founding members of the Center, faculty papers, organization records, photographs, yearbooks, newsletters, and artifacts. Researchers, communications specialists, and other HSC personnel can access these materials by contacting the HSC Archivist. Collectively, these tell the story of health science education at UF.

<https://archives.health.ufl.edu/>

Archives materials:

Top left: Slide of a 3D model of Harrell's original design of the Health Science Center.
Bottom left: Antique wheelchair.



Above: Students studying in the old library, reading room.

Right: Student using an Energy Pod, a HSCL wellness initiative to reduce stress and burnout.

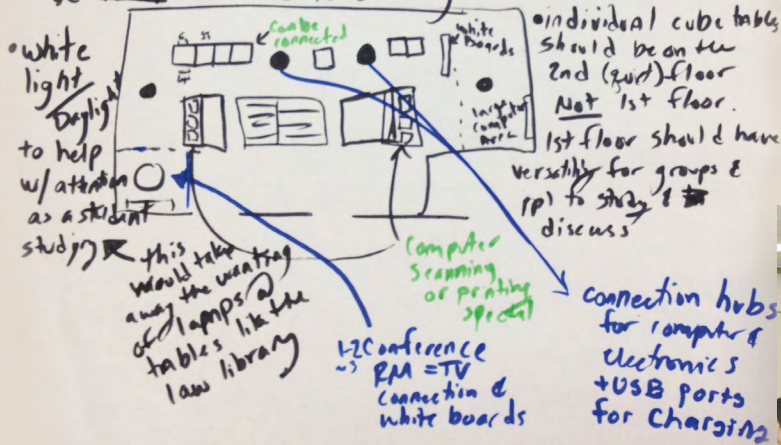


HSCL launched a similar project for the second floor in 2015. User input continued to be important to the process, with an online survey, focus group sessions, and simple questions on library whiteboards providing a picture of what additional study spaces, technology, and furniture would be most useful. Again, HSCL staff took on the task of shifting the print collection, this time sending low-use older journal volumes to off-site storage and condensing all remaining print materials onto the third floor. A commitment to purchase most future materials in electronic formats meant that the considerable space freed up by shifting the collection was now available for open study. The renovation involved increasing comfortable furniture, computers, and study space; replacing flooring and repainting; and creating an archives collection space and reading room within the library. This allowed for the relocation of fragile and unique archival materials from a basement space outside of the library that was prone to flooding.

Several smaller scale renovations have updated additional spaces within HSCL over recent years. Removal of a dumbwaiter opened up space across all three floors, enabling updates to two highly-used conference rooms and creation of a new Director's Office. Another project launched the 50-seat computer classroom, Biomedical Information Teaching Spaces (BITS), using a highly visible first-floor space to increase instructional capacity and rehusing all HSCL faculty to offices on the second floor. HSCL leadership successfully advocated for replacement of the two malfunctioning air handlers serving the building. Most recently, former staff office space was repurposed for open quiet study. Together, these modifications represent a significant modernization of the 1970s-era Communicore space.

MORE BEANBAGS*****

- Have ^{se} tables able to be moved & adjusted so individuals, small groups, & large groups can be ~~able~~ able to sit anywhere.



Above: HSC students hard at work in a library group study room.

Above: Feedback on potential changes to second floor renovation, drawn during focus group, 2015.



Above: First floor after removal of print materials and renovation, fully occupied, 2013.

Two other initiatives have made significant improvements to the HSCL library space in the last few years: 24/7 access to library space for Health Science Center learners and ongoing projects of the HSCL Wellness Team. With the closure of the Blue Room (non-library overnight study space) in 2016, HSCL and Smathers Facilities staff implemented a system for students to gain after-hours access to the library's second floor via their GatorOne card. Initially, students and residents were given access individually after filling out a registration form; currently, new cohorts of HSC students and residents are automatically granted access. The HSCL Wellness Team, created in 2016, focuses on ways to reduce stress and burn-out among students, faculty, and staff. The team hosts regular visits from therapy dogs, gives out healthy snacks during midterms and finals, replenishes the puzzle table, offers meditation sessions, and develops other events. Efforts of Wellness Team members have brought under-desk exercisers, treadmill desks, and cell phone lockers (where users can charge their phones and get a technology break) to the library. Other wellness-enhancing features of HSCL include a 75-gallon freshwater aquarium (maintained by the UF Aquaculture and Aquarium Club) and two Energy Pods, which offer 20-minute programmed speed naps.

From the library's inception as the central fixture in the Health Center to our current focus on accessible study space and wellness, the HSCL continues to be guided by the specific needs of the six Health Science Center colleges.



BORLAND LIBRARY

The Borland Library in Jacksonville presents another distinct development model. By the end of the 1960s, the UF College of Medicine began to generate longer-distance bonds with the Jacksonville Hospitals Education Program (JHEP). As connections between the Jacksonville programs and UF strengthened, JHEP's library came to be known as the Borland Library and also affiliated with library services in Gainesville in the 1980s.

<https://history.ufhealthjax.org>