For years, the Libraries have had displays and exhibits. You could walk in and see a “new book” display or a selection attractively displayed in honor of a particular celebration, such as Black History Month. The gallery outside Special Collections featured rotating exhibits of thematically grouped books in cases. Yet these displays and exhibits were each approached individually as one-offs. They were often independent of each other and not usually incorporated into courses or the surrounding university and larger Gainesville community.
In 2012, the Libraries hired its first Exhibits Coordinator to build upon previous exhibit work and formalize an exhibition program, much like those found in museums. The exhibition program would enhance research and learning opportunities on campus by sharing and interpreting the collections.

Exhibits usually rotate once or twice a semester and are free and open to the public during the same hours as the building in which they are housed. Items included in exhibits are primarily from the Libraries collections and supplemented, as appropriate, with materials from other sources. For example, the 2017 exhibit *Florida Tourism: Sunshine and Shadows* included books, photographs, maps, letters, and diaries from the Libraries collections as well as a 1940s hand-made Seminole doll on loan from the Florida Museum of Natural History, photographs of Paradise Park from a private collection, and reproductions of a travel guide from New York Public Library Digital Collections.

Two major gallery projects contributed to the expansion of exhibitions. Established in 2017, the Albert H. Nahmad Panama Canal Gallery (2,305 sq. feet) includes 18 vitrines and two digital interactives (see accompanying stories on page 46). The Libraries worked with custom fabricators to design accessible, modern vitrines matching the historic Smathers Library building’s style. The area is popular with students who refer to

Since 2012, Smathers exhibition spaces & opportunities have more than doubled to include over a a dozen distinct areas across eight buildings.
it as a quiet area to study while immersed in a mini-museum. In 2019, we re-designed the primary exhibition space, the Gallery on the second floor of the Smathers Library (501 sq. feet), to include updated vitrines, a more flexible layout, and multimedia capacity. The new furniture allows for ADA accessibility and expanded possibilities to display costumes, artwork, oversized items, and audio while better protecting the materials on display.

Additionally, we have pop-up and flex spaces that host temporary panels and posters. This includes the third floor of Library West, which recently featured Portraits of Us, a photo series uplifting first-generation college students and their experiences at the University of Florida. The exhibit was initially born out of the research of Dr. Cecilia E. Suarez and flourished with the collaborative efforts of Erica Aguiar, Adrian Cruz, from the Machen Florida Opportunity Scholars Program.
Library exhibits promote interdisciplinary approaches to research and teaching and stimulate intellectual curiosity. Our exhibitions are unique in that any library employee may propose and curate an exhibition, from student workers to full-time faculty. The result is a varied exhibition calendar with diverse stories shared.

https://exhibitions.uflib.ufl.edu/

Physical and online exhibitions support and enhance the role of the Libraries as an intellectual center of the university.

Let’s Talk About Sex
SMATHERS LIBRARY GALLERY
August 31, 2020 – December 15, 2020

Children’s literature illustrates the changing attitudes towards sex education over time. Increased sex education has grown young people’s sexual knowledge, awareness, and autonomy. It has also improved their attitudes towards sexual and reproductive health and behaviors while affirming the position of sex education within a larger framework of human rights.
CURATED BY Hunter McDaniel.

An American Canal in Panama
ALBERT H. NAHMAD PANAMA CANAL GALLERY, SMATHERS LIBRARY
March 16, 2019 - February 23, 2020

The Panama Canal and its surroundings were historically the source of tension between the United States and Panama. This exhibit looks at the sources of tension and examines events that led to the transfer of the Canal in 1999.
CURATED BY Elizabeth A. Bouton, John Nemmers, and Lourdes Santamaría-Wheeler.
With assistance from Elizabeth Bemis.
1821 – The Americanization of Florida
SMATHERS LIBRARY GALLERY
August 2020 - December 2020
In 1821, Spain transferred control of its colonies, East and West Florida, to the United States. Although many residents anticipated that they would eventually become American citizens, the actual change in sovereignty brought a rapid restructuring of their lives.
CURATED BY James Cusick.
With assistance from Jason Zappulla and Rachel Laue.

Bo Diddley: An American Original
SMATHERS LIBRARY GALLERY
April 1, 2019 - June 21, 2019
CURATED BY Jim Liversidge and Florence M. Turcotte.
With assistance from Alan Asher and Venetia Ponds.
Black Educators: Florida’s Secret Social Justice Advocates 1920-1960
SMATHERS LIBRARY GALLERY
October 22, 2018 - December 18, 2018
A Celebration of the 60th Anniversary of Desegregation at the University of Florida showcasing the role of Black educators in the 40 years before the Civil Rights Movement.
CURATED BY Dr. Diedre Houchen and Florence M. Turcotte.

Frankenstein: Scientific Inspiration and Outcomes
SMATHERS LIBRARY GALLERY
August 27, 2018 - November 25, 2018
In honor of the 200th anniversary of Mary Shelley’s “Frankenstein,” the exhibit begins with the science that inspired Shelley and looks ahead to current biomedical research to hypothesize what technology Dr. Victor Frankenstein might have utilized as a scientist in 2018.
CURATED BY Dr. Sara Russell Gonzalez.
John David Ridge: A Life in Costume
SMATHERS LIBRARY GALLERY
January 21, 2020 - March 20, 2020

John David Ridge (1945 – ) worked as a costume designer, costume maker, and costume supervisor on stage, film, and television. The exhibition highlights his career including work with The Joffrey Ballet, Halston, and Julie Andrews, as well as costume design for the Spider-Man trilogy (2002–2007).

CURATED BY Jim Liversidge.