



SMATHERS LIBRARIES TIMELINE & MILESTONES



1920s

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
Library Peabody Building

Peabody Hall with University Library to the North on the Campus

ufdc.ufl.edu/uf00034817/00001



1987

LIBRARY EAST RENAMED SMATHERS LIBRARY

1970

UNIVERSITY LIBRARY RENAMED LIBRARY EAST

1928

East facade of University Library with sole white wooden entrance to reading room.

ufdc.ufl.edu/uf00029524/00001



1931

South Tower added, second floor reading room circulation desk.

ufdc.ufl.edu/uf00046585/00001

Left and Below: Bookplates from the Florida Agricultural College's library found in a copy of Aesop's Fables now in the Baldwin Library of Historical Children's Literature. The Florida Agricultural College became the University of Florida in 1903.

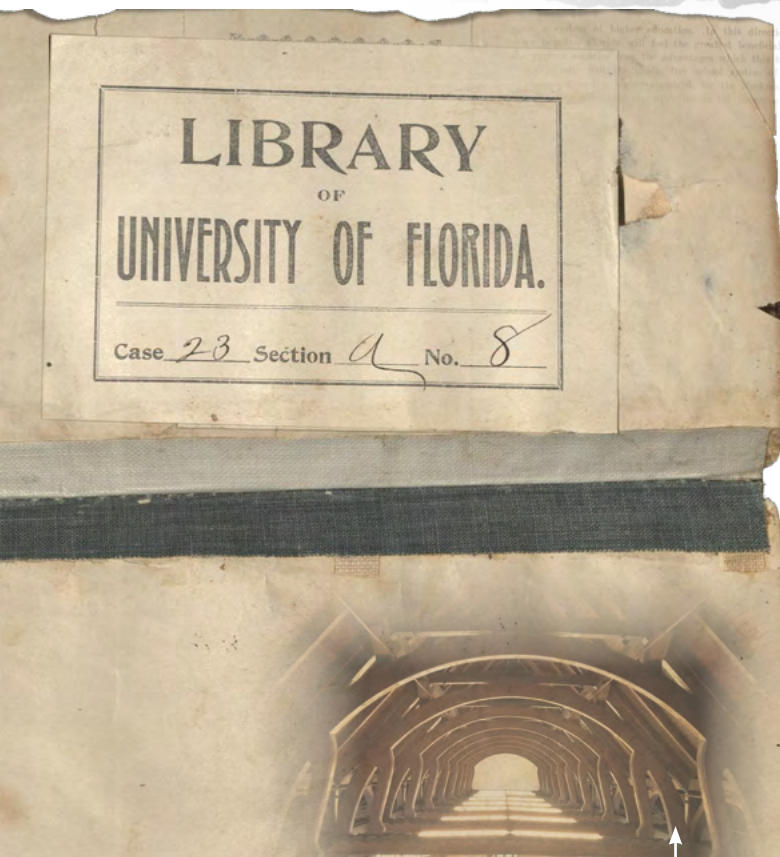
Right: Buckman Law Illustration from *The Sun*. (Jacksonville, Fla.), 30 Dec. 1905. *Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers*. Lib. of Congress. chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn95047216/1905-12-30/ed-1/seq-12.



The early years, 1906 to 1967

CARL VAN NESS / EMERITUS UF HISTORIAN 1984 - 2022

When and where to begin? It's never clear when we talk about UF's history. For someone at FSU or FAMU, the answer is simple. You begin at the beginning at a location in Tallahassee. UF, though, has plural beginnings, not a single beginning. The University of Florida claims multiple antecedents in four different locations, but the histories of those antecedents were upended by the Buckman Act of 1905. Although it was not Henry Buckman's intention, his act resulted in the creation of a new campus for a new University of Florida in Gainesville. The plethora of beginnings is revealed in the pre-Buckman library bookplates that librarians uncovered over the years. With one or two exceptions, all the bookplates emanated from the library of the Florida Agricultural College in Lake City, which became the University of Florida in 1903.



1930s

Summer session, second floor reading room, renamed Grand Reading Room.

ufdc.ufl.edu



Steel beam supporting Grand Reading Room.

BBI Restoration 2020-21

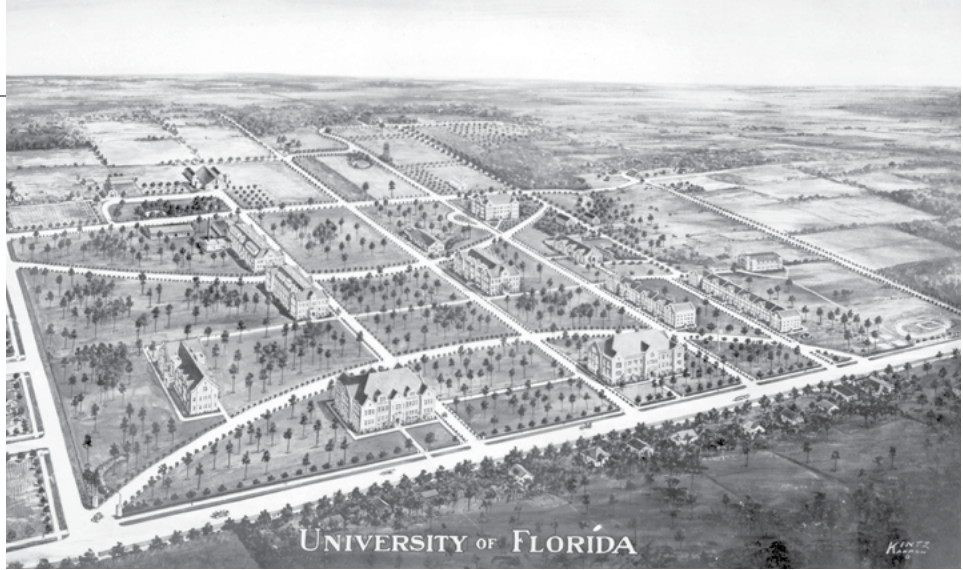


1940s

Students studying in the library at P. K. Yonge School.

ufdc.ufl.edu/uf00029517/00001

THE EARLY YEARS



Proposed Layout of the University of Florida, Drawing of Campus, 1916. ufdc.ufl.edu/uf00033789/00001.



Classroom scene with male and female students, Florida Agricultural College, Lake City, FL, 1893. ufdc.ufl.edu/uf00030003/00001.

Logically, we should begin then with the transfer of the university's moveable properties, which included the library, from Lake City to Gainesville in the spring of 1906. A 1904 catalog from the pre-Buckman University states that the library had approximately 4,000 volumes and was "encumbered with little of the useless materials which accumulate in libraries of older growth." The responsibility for moving the properties was entrusted to the librarian, William S. Cawthon, who left Lake City on one of the last wagons. He carried a shotgun on his lap to dissuade town residents, angry over the loss of the university, from impeding his journey. Some of the books may have been left behind, as the first post-Buckman catalog indicates only 3,000 volumes in the library. By 1909, the library contained 12,000 volumes, including the library of the newly-installed College of Law. Students were encouraged to use the library: "A taste for good literature is being developed in many students who have not had good access to a library before coming here." Milton Hadley served as the first full-time librarian from 1908 to 1918. Although Cora Miltimore is credited

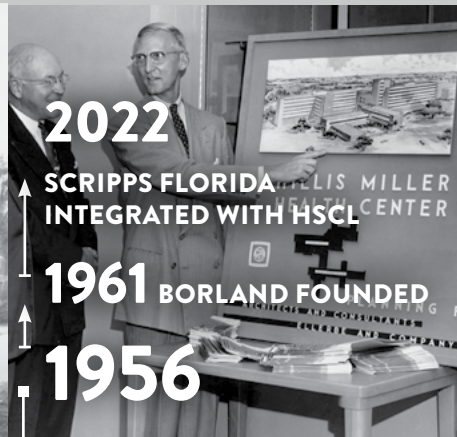
SMATHERS LIBRARIES TIMELINE & MILESTONES



2004
DIGITAL LIBRARY OF THE CARIBBEAN ORGANIZED



1950s



2022
SCRIPPS FLORIDA TELLS MILLER INTEGRATED WITH HSCL CENTER



1997
MERGED SPECIAL & AREA STUDIES COLLECTIONS

1948

Latin American Special Acquisitions Fund established.

Library Addition Construction View. ufdc.ufl.edu/uf00047419/00001

1961 BORLAND FOUNDED
1956
George Harrell, College of Medicine's first Dean, Health Science Center Library opens. ufdc.ufl.edu/UF00036983/00001

1987 REVIVAL
1972 ABOLISHED
1959

Special Collections Department established.

as the first professional librarian at UF, Hadley must have had some training as he implemented the Dewey cataloging system and created the first card catalog. By the time Miltimore arrived in 1918, the collection had grown to over 20,000 volumes.

Miltimore came at a difficult time in the university's history. There would be a 300% increase in enrollment in the decade after World War I, bringing increased demand for library services. By 1923, holdings had risen to 38,000 volumes, yet the library was still being staffed by a sole librarian. Help was on the way. The first assistant librarian was hired in 1923, as well as an additional librarian for the law library. By 1928, Miltimore's staff would include a reference librarian, a circulation librarian, and two catalogers as well as support staff.

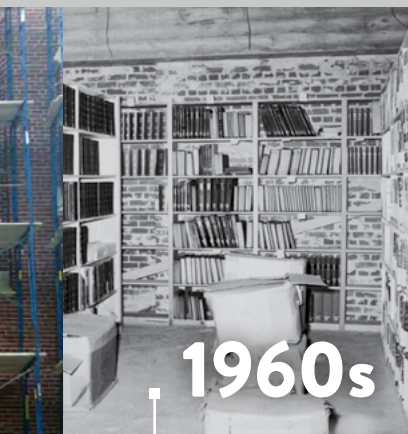
It should be noted that the executive and budgetary functions of the library were delegated to the University Library Committee, not to the University Librarian. Furthermore, no librarian served on that committee. During those rare years when there was an actual book budget, selections were made by the faculty. Budgets and allocations for books

and periodicals were determined by the Library Committee because the library had no book budget of its own. The funds came from the colleges, which had little to spare for the library.

The library was first situated in Thomas Hall and later moved to Peabody Hall. There were also several branch libraries, including the education library and a chemistry and pharmacy library. The library of the Florida Agricultural Experiment Station was an independent entity and not part of the University Libraries. Construction of a library building began in 1923 and the central core was completed in 1925. The new facility provided hundreds of study spaces in the grand reading room but little space for books. Subsequent phases were to include stack areas, but those were postponed when Florida's economy collapsed in 1927. Instead, a truncated south wing was built in 1931 that brought stack capacity to 200,000 volumes. There was a small browsing collection, but access to the stacks was restricted to faculty and selected students. Patron requests were sent to the stacks via a pneumatic system and the materials were delivered to the reading room via an electric book conveyor. The 1931 addition also

included a smaller more secluded reading room, which is now the Price Library for Judaica. Finally, at Miltimore's insistence, two vaults were built to store the library's treasured materials. This was aspirational, as the library had no treasures to speak of in 1931.

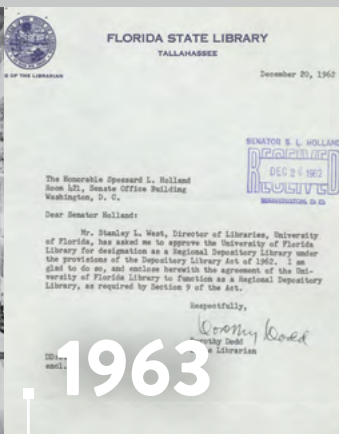
A 1935 survey by the Association of Research Libraries revealed stark deficiencies at Florida's public colleges. The national standard for annual library expenditures in 1935 was \$10 per student, but UF was only able to achieve \$3.07, while the Florida State College for Women, now FSU, spent \$4.67. If the university was to catch up with its peer institutions, major reforms would have to be undertaken in the libraries. To back up his pleas for library appropriations, President John James Tigert commissioned a comprehensive study of the library's administration, services, plant, and holdings. Released in 1940 by the American Library Association, the 120-page study painted a picture of abject neglect. Under the categories of budget, buildings, acquisitions, and personnel, the study's detailed recommendations could be summed up in two words—MORE and BETTER. Furthermore, the study argued for librarians to set policies and



1960s

Book storage in Century Tower.

ufdc.ufl.edu/UF00031195/00001



1963

Libraries becomes Florida Regional Depository for federal documents.



1965

Architecture and Fine Arts Library, located in the Fine Arts Complex opens.



2003-2006

\$30 MILLION NORTH WING EXPANSION, 2-YEAR SHUTDOWN

1967

Library West, originally called the Graduate Research Library opens.

THE EARLY YEARS

budgets for the library, not the faculty.

Most of the reforms would have to wait until the end of World War II. The end of war brought new demands on library services as, once again, enrollments surged. The GI Bill brought the initial surge, followed by another surge when UF became coeducational in 1947. There was a sense of urgency after the war. The prewar inadequacies of the university's physical plant were mitigated by the removal of dozens of wooden prefab buildings from military installations across Florida and their transfer to Gainesville. A wooden annex was attached to the southwest entrance of the library to serve as a reading and browsing room for first and second-year students. The architecture, biology, geology, and engineering collections were moved to temporary buildings that had previously served as barracks. Finally, the additions envisioned in the 1925 plans came to fruition in 1949 with the erection of the North Tower and the stack unit.

Stanley West took the reins as library director in 1946 and would serve until 1967. West would be the first director to enjoy, if we can use that word, the administrative powers recommended in the 1940 study. As West would explain

it, "The poor librarians were in the doghouse before I came." Under West, the library underwent both a physical and professional transformation. From a wartime level of 150,000 volumes, the holdings ballooned to 500,000 by 1953. The one million milestone was achieved in 1963. West was involved in the creation of the first medical library and hired its first director. He also brought the Experiment Station library into the University Libraries with the creation of the Hume Agricultural Library located in McCarty Hall. The libraries joined the Association of Research Libraries in 1956. Librarians were granted faculty status and tenure.

With the creation of the P. K. Yonge Library of Florida History in 1946, the libraries began a long process of building special and area studies collections. Beginning as a supplement to Florida History, a program to strengthen Latin American and Caribbean holdings began in 1946. The effort was expanded in 1952 after the Rockefeller Foundation provided travel grants to the West Indies to purchase materials. Through Gene Baro, a poet and acquaintance of Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings, West was able to acquire the novelist's manuscripts. Baro



Stanley West, First Director of Libraries in 1947, with Lilly Carter, Acquisitions Head, look at millionth volume, 1963. *The Great Bible*, 1541. ufdc.ufl.edu/uf00032818/00001



Young woman looks through a card catalog in Library West. The card catalog was removed from West in 1995. ufdc.ufl.edu/uf00046884/00001

SMATHERS LIBRARIES TIMELINE & MILESTONES

1977 Baldwin Library of Historical Children's Literature established.

1980 Education Library, located in Norman Hall opens.

1981 The Isser and Rae Price Library of Judaica was dedicated.

1987 Marston Science Library opens with all non-medical science collections.

2014 REDESIGN OF JUDAICA SUITE

2018 RENOVATIONS COMPLETED

2022 MARSTON MAKERSPACE CREATED

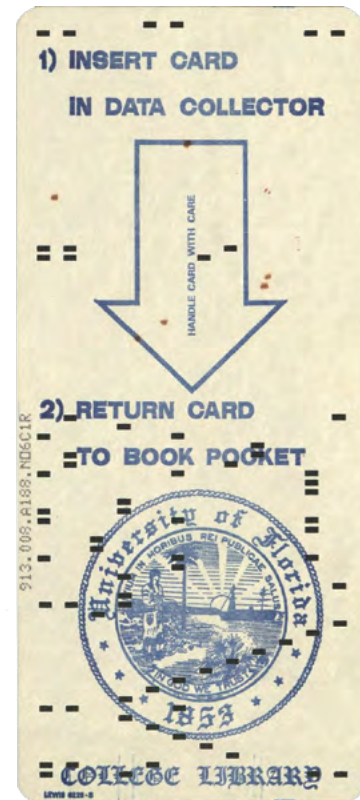
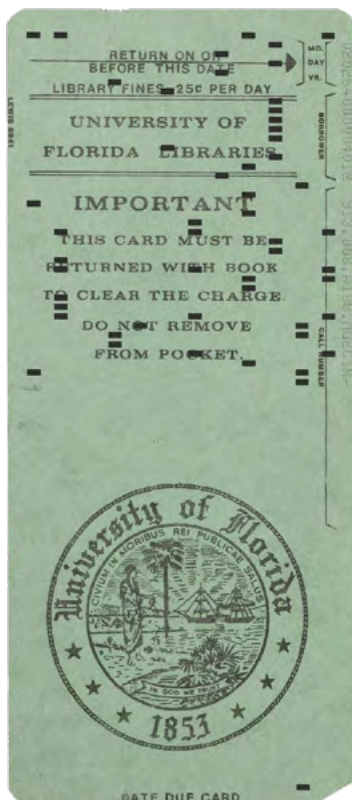
2014-2023 RENOVATIONS



The Graduate Research Library opened and the old library was designated the College Library. Undergraduates were given access to the stacks for the first time in 1967.

was subsequently employed as a book buyer and played a key role in the development of the rare book collection. Tragically, his efforts were brought to a halt in 1959 by the Johns Committee's attacks on gays and lesbians at the University of Florida. Three librarians were terminated, including two associates of Baro.

Much to his displeasure, West had little input in the plans for the 1949 addition. (One elevator? Seriously?) That would not be the case when it came time to build Library West. The university had originally planned to build Little Hall on the site of Library West, which would have effectively blocked any further library expansion. West convinced the administration that building a new library building adjacent to the existing library would be a far more effective use of library resources. West would leave Florida for the University of Hawaii just as the new library opened in 1967, thus closing one chapter in the history of the Libraries.



UF was one of the first universities to use an automated library circulation system. The IBM punchcard system was implemented in the late 1940s and was used until the circulation component of the Libraries' first library management system, NOTIS, was installed in 1984.

For more Smathers Libraries historical timelines:

[Centennial Timeline - uflib.ufl.edu/centennial](http://uflib.ufl.edu/centennial)

[Smathers Library History - communications.uflib.ufl.edu/at-a-glance/smathers-library-history](http://communications.uflib.ufl.edu/at-a-glance/smathers-library-history)

- 2012** RELOCATED TO INTERIM LIBRARY FACILITY (ILF)
- 2019** GOOGLE BOOKS PROJECT
- 1987** Conservation and Preservation Unit created located in Smathers Library.
- 2000** UF Digital Collections was established and first scanners.
- 2012** FLorida Academic REpository (FLARE) storage organized.
- 2017** Albert H. Nahmad Panama Canal Gallery opened.