

Over 100 inspiring Centennial conversations from our Libraries' dedicated staff celebrating its rich history and envisioning the future.

The Libraries faculty and staff gathered in Smathers Library for Convocation 2024 - a staff appreciation event celebrating the past year's accomplishments and anticipating future directions.



First and Last Name	Number of years working in the Libraries	Current position in the Libraries	Answers to the following questions: <i>What does it mean to you to work for the Smathers Libraries?</i> <i>What is the best thing the Libraries have done in the last 100 years?</i> <i>What do you see for the Libraries in the next 100 years?</i>
<b>Greg Allen</b>	27 full-time, 3 years student employee	Library Associate 3, Contributed Cataloging Unit Head	Probably one of the best things is becoming so technologically advanced and providing so many services and different equipment to students, faculty, staff and the Gainesville community. All of these advancements have helped all patrons find the information needed for their research much quicker and in much greater quantity. For those of us who work here, the technology allows us to meet with colleagues around the world with the use of online meetings. This allows more people to join in on presentations and discussions.
<b>Joann Almonte</b>	Less than 1 year	Student Assistant	Having a job as a student assistant at the Smathers Libraries has allowed me to engage with the world of academia in a way I never thought I would have access to. I love books, not just for their information, but as a physical object in general. Getting to work with books that have been inked, spined, and gilded ages before I was born means that I get to work with the past in a way just as intimate as the idealized archaeologist or paleontologist!
<b>Robert Anderson II</b>	1 year	Development Coordinator	I have always dreamt of working for the University of Florida for the impact that it not only has on the student today but for the foundation it is building for the rest of their lives. The Libraries are a foundational piece to every student and their success here at the University of Florida. To be able to play a part in something so special is truly a dream come true.
<b>Paige Anderson</b>	2 years	Library Image Assistant	Providing a platform for embracing the creativity and strength of people who will make the world a better place through knowledge, and collaboration.
<b>Margaret Ansell</b>	10 years	Nursing & Consumer Health Liaison Librarian and Associate Chair, Gainesville HSCL	As a third-generation Floridian, I appreciate being able to work in my home state, close to family, while also enjoying the unique status of being a tenure-track faculty librarian—the only university in Florida where that's the case! Despite growing up in South Florida, Gainesville has seduced me with the springs and the biodiversity, as well as its proximity to so much unusual history (Punk rock! Drag racing! <i>The Yearling!</i> ). Smathers Libraries has the unique position of preserving and sharing so many pieces of Florida's history. I may not work with our archives or special collections, but I still tell students about the biscuit, Bo Diddley's guitars, or the Spiderman suit when I'm teaching them about library databases. Our diverse collections (including sewing machines and skeletons!) help demonstrate that Smathers Libraries are about so much more than books and spaces to study.
<b>Raiyan Ashique</b>	Less than 1 year	Student Assistant	It means I help anyone who comes in with questions and I make sure that they utilize the library system to its fullest potential.
<b>Alex Avelino</b>	1.5 years	Director of Marcom	I support the storytelling of the largest academic resource system in the state. An important and huge role, I am proud to be the only third space that every single UF community member utilizes in some way. We are important and UF needs us.

<b>Katiana Bagué</b>	8 years	Exhibits Associate	Being a part of the Smathers Libraries means working in a setting where one is constantly learning and acquiring new knowledge. I remember working at the LACC as an undergraduate art history student years ago and having so many opportunities to learn outside the classroom. I had close access to diverse resources and worked with colleagues who happily shared their valuable insights and perspectives. This is true today in my role as exhibits associate. I am always fascinated by the exhibit topics curators across the Smathers Libraries develop by exploring our collections. The bits of knowledge I gain daily from working with these exhibits are truly special. You can learn so much from the stories found in books and archives, but also from the stories told by the people around you in the Smathers Libraries.
<b>Lisa Bailey</b>	Retired after 37 years, returned 4th year since retired.	Library Assistant 3	Working for Smathers Libraries meant a lot to me. I got to learn a lot about us as a whole with the six different Libraries that we have on campus to offer to our students, researchers, and the community. Since I have been employed at the Library, customer services is very important. That is one thing I truly love about my job, to be able to assist when and where I can.
<b>Jimmy Barnett</b>	16 years	Conservation Projects Associate	Building powerful collections that feed research into Florida's unique place in history, science, and its geographical region.
<b>Jane Barnwell</b>	2.5 years	Grants Manager	My sincere hope is that the state, the legislature, and the UF administration continues to believe in, and support, the essential role of libraries in the academic enterprise, and that they recognize the value our Smathers Libraries staff and collections bring to Florida.
<b>McKindree Borges</b>	1.5 years	Library Assistant	I really love dLOC. Even before I began working for the Smathers Libraries I knew about how extensive the collection was from courses in my undergraduate degree. It is truly a marvel how much data it provides across so many countries.
<b>Jean Bossart</b>	9 years	Engineering Librarian	As a former UF undergrad and graduate student in engineering, the Libraries were my home away from home. One of my favorite places to study was the Grand Reading Room in Smathers Library. It felt so scholarly to sit at the large oak tables with my books spread out around me. As an undergraduate, I had a paying job doing research for one of my professors on new semiconductor materials. This experience taught me so much about research and all the vast resources available to the academic community. I would have to go to the Law School Library, Health Science Center Library, and of course the engineering library to find papers. Little did I know that job would prepare me for my future career as an engineering librarian.
<b>Lisa Campbell</b>	7 years	Instruction and Outreach Librarian	To work in the same Library that inspired my life path of becoming a librarian has been an incredible opportunity to create experiences for students as meaningful as my own.
<b>Stephanie Chancy</b>	Almost 2 years	Caribbean Partnerships Librarian & Director of dLOC	I see the Libraries continuing to embrace what I see as their mission and mandate, guiding students and researchers to information, and ensuring that resources are preserved and available, and doing this with the latest technology.
<b>Tyjan Clifton</b>	1 year	Collection Services Coordinator	I love helping students find materials or resources that they didn't even know existed. It is really fulfilling passing on information and knowing students will have better tools to help them with their classes. I love the interconnectedness that library employees have. It doesn't matter where or who you are, everyone here is always happy and willing to help each other. Smathers Libraries has helped revive my passion for helping patrons within the library system.
<b>Sarah Coates</b>	6 year	University Archivist	Three things! 1. Implementing the online catalog system—no more having to hunt through drawers of cards to find the book you need. 2. Formation of the University Archives in 1951 on President J. Hillis Miller's request. This has allowed the Libraries to collect and share the historic record of the University. 3. Our UF Digital Collections (UFDC). UFDC allows users from anywhere to view historic resources from across our Special & Area Studies Collections, and allows us to promote our collections to the world.
<b>Andrea Colon</b>	Less than 1 year	Student Intern	The best thing the Libraries have done in the last 100 years is embracing digital transformation. By making vast collections accessible online, they've opened up UF's resources to students, researchers, and the public around the world. This shift not only preserves knowledge, but also makes it easier to share and discover.
<b>Misty Colson</b>	22 years	Executive Assistant I	Working at the Smathers Libraries means being part of a community of experts who are dedicated to supporting the academic journey of the University of Florida's faculty, students, and staff. I take great pride in working with such colleagues who bring invaluable knowledge and assistance, especially to our students, as they navigate their educational experiences.
<b>Jennifer Crumpton</b>	Less than 1 year	Health Science	Working for the Smathers Libraries for me, means having the opportunity to make a difference in a future health care provider's college experience and life. I enjoy helping the HSCL wellness team carry out tasks that promote both physical and mental health, as well as encourage internal reflection. Having worked in a clinical setting for a number of years I think it is very valuable to teach students while they are in their programs to value self-care, and work-life balance. I also really enjoy all of the collaborative work that is being done throughout the Libraries (i.e., grants, projects, research, connections with liaison groups, etc.) in the hopes of making the system for the entire campus a better place overall.
<b>Annika Joy Cruz</b>	1.5 years	Undergraduate Library Advisor	Working for the Smathers Libraries means highlighting the ways the Libraries offer help to students. The Libraries have so many resources, and I always meet students that are surprised by them. I love sharing the ways that the Libraries can help students reach success, especially when a lot of the resources aren't expected, like GoPros and cameras to borrow, Study Buddies, and the Makerspaces. These resources are reminders that the Libraries are more than just a place to study, and it's nice to share those resources with peers and remind them that they have so much at their disposal.
<b>Clinton Dailey</b>	Over 20 years	Associate 1	The creation of the high-density facilities.
<b>Steph Deleon</b>	3 years	Student Assistant	Provide access to students to study for their courses. It might not seem like a lot but always having a student spot on campus, especially when Marston was 24/7, is so helpful for students. Just knowing I have a place that does not have an distractions for me to focus on my studies is something not all college campuses have.

<b>Caitlin Douglas</b>	Less than 1 year	Library Assistant II	It means a lot! Smathers Libraries gave me such a safe space here as a student and now I am able to provide services to students in a wonderful full-circle moment.
<b>Sheri Edwards</b>	2.5 years	Electronic Resources Librarian	In a word, support. I manage a team of four who are entirely, cheerfully, willingly supportive of one another (and me!). Peers and colleagues among the Libraries have been tremendously supportive, always offering to commiserate, informally advise, debate, joke with, and have lunch to chat about matters of work, responsibilities, and tenure-track experiences, among others. I've worked many jobs over the course of my life and never have I felt more supported than at UF.
<b>Danie Ellsworth</b>	1 year	Library Assistant	Engaging with the community and providing services and information for everyone while making an open and engaging environment.
<b>Rachael Elrod</b>	10 years	Associate Chair of Departmental Libraries and Director of the Education Library	Libraries will continue to evolve in exciting and possibly unexpected ways but stay rooted in the core mission of providing access to information and supporting the teaching and learning needs of the University of Florida. I believe the Libraries will increasingly become more technologically advanced with tools such as AI, personalized learning experiences, immersive learning environments (think virtual and augmented reality), and more. The physical library will continue to evolve with a greater focus on collaborative workspaces, innovation labs, and event spaces where scholars, students, and community members can create knowledge, use technologies, and support neurodivergent learners. Ultimately, the Libraries will continue to be here, and will continue to approach challenges and provide a place of learning, discovery, support, and ensuring equal access to knowledge.
<b>Joanne Endorf</b>	5 years	Library Assistant III Course Reserves	The opportunity to work with like-minded people who care about supporting the students. The Libraries are important to education and there are many ways to make a difference in student and staff success.
<b>Elizabeth Evans</b>	1 year	Director Administrative Services	I always shared a love of learning and reading with my mother. My mom was a librarian toward the end of her career. My mom passed away in 2020 so when I accepted the position in the Smathers Libraries in 2023, it was a special moment. Additionally, working for a top tier university's library is special as well because I can see the difference our Libraries makes on other institutions.
<b>Tremayne Evans</b>	3 years w/Libraries, 20 with UF	Associate 2	Libraries have always been a place to exchange and develop ideas and to meet like-minded people. A place of discovery to nurture young minds and mold them for the future.
<b>Stacey Ewing</b>	17 years	Chair, Library West Humanities & Social Sciences	It's not just about books; it's about helping our students find, access, and evaluate information. I see myself as more than a librarian—an educator, a mentor, an advocate, and a supportive ally. A big part of my role as a librarian is making sure that all students can access our resources and services. I believe in the importance of accessibility, and I work hard to create an inclusive environment for everyone. I'm also passionate about using technology to enhance student success and enrich learning experiences. As a former first-generation student, I know firsthand many of the challenges that come with navigating a large academic setting. Another one of my goals is to help all students avoid the obstacles I encountered and empower them to succeed academically and become confident, informed individuals.
<b>Robin Fowler</b>	9 years	Physical Sciences Librarian	As an undergrad at UF, the Libraries were my comfort zone. I studied for exams, researched and wrote papers, and wandered the stacks of AFA and Library West for no other reason than to just look at cool books. When my husband and I first started dating during our sophomore year at UF, we would even meet up at West's colonnade each morning to talk, and sometimes we would even go inside and study. When I was encouraged by a favorite professor to go to library school after undergrad, I knew that librarianship was my calling. I knew I wanted to eventually return to the Smathers Libraries as a librarian, and pay it forward to new generations of UF students by helping cultivate a welcoming space for learning like I had been provided.
<b>Sam Fraleigh</b>	11 years	Copy Cataloging Unit Head, Resource Description Services	In many ways, working for the Smathers Libraries feels like home. Growing up, I had multiple family members that worked in libraries and I would visit the public library weekly all throughout my youth and young adulthood, always finding new things there to capture my attention. Getting my first job in the university's library system felt like the perfect next step, and it provided stability as I acclimated to being a college student and eased into the working world. Now, I have made a career out of a special field that inspired such comfort and excitement in my youth.
<b>William Furlong</b>	3 months	Evening and Weekend Manager - AFA Library	I hope to see the Libraries continue to evolve with the times, ever offering a place to study, learn, explore and create. While technology steers us more and more towards and online existence, there's no replacement for a physical gathering place to collaborate and share ideas.
<b>Erin Gallagher</b>	6 years	Chair of Acquisitions & Collections Services	It means being part of something important and valuable. It means dedicating my career in service of literacy, education, and creative thinking. It means giving back to a community of library users who have been so welcoming to me. As I'm sure is true for many people, libraries have always been a sanctuary for me. By working for the Smathers Libraries, I can play a small role in bringing the joy of libraries to others—in helping them to see libraries as forces for good in our world. The Smathers Libraries are unique in that we're a massive network of branches and digital services, but we often make impacts in small, incremental ways that go unseen. There is a strange coziness to knowing that we're working so well behind the scenes that our users never see us sweat. It's also incredibly meaningful to work for a library system that is truly the leader in our state.
<b>Sofia Gonzalez</b>	3 years	Student Assistant	It means getting to participate in facilitating a place that is home to many students.
<b>Kelly Handy</b>	3.5 years	Public Services Associate/ Assistant User Services Manager	I have a background in public libraries, which is very different from academic. When I first started at Library West, I felt like it was too good to be true. Coordinators, supervisors, and colleagues that support you as an employee but also as a person. I have already learned so much and thrived with the opportunities I have had.

<b>Paige Harper</b>	35 years	Library Associate 1	I was here in November 1989 when the first Government Printing Office bibliographical records were loaded into LUIS, our database at the time (access which was through hard-wired monitors, not desktop computers). These were records from 1976-1989. After this date, the Government Documents Department was on the proverbial map. We suddenly had all sorts of students clamoring for government documents, our public service statistics soared, and researchers would seek us out for statistical sources, and challenging research assignments.
<b>Barbara Hauser</b>	2.5 years	Library Assistant II	Continuing innovation and technology exploration to combine reading and research in a way that makes it more accessible and functional as society progresses.
<b>April Helena</b>	3 years 8 months	Conservation Associate	The Libraries having almost 300 subject and area specialists and curators is so important for our students and faculty. The opportunity to connect and get help from someone who is an expert in your research area is huge and helps make our collections more accessible, less intimidating, and a better overall experience.
<b>Steve Hersh</b>	9 years	Public Services Assistant in the Grand Reading Room (SASC)	All the efforts over the last 100 years to position the Libraries as a hub of Florida history research is so important to our university and our state. The growth of Florida since the early 20th century has been dramatic. Such growth, development, and change might tend to obscure and bury history, but through the efforts of librarians and the generosity of donors, the Smathers Libraries has been at the forefront of collecting and documenting the history of Florida.
<b>Jennifer Hofer</b>	2 years	History Librarian	Working for the Libraries is like coming full circle for me. I got my BA at UF and now have the opportunity to help students in the same program I was in 20 years ago.
<b>Chloe Hough</b>	Almost 5 years	HSCL Liaison Librarian	The best thing is being a part of healthcare education.
<b>Hélène Huet</b>	9 years	Associate Chair, West	Despite AI, ebooks and databases, print materials are here to stay :-)
<b>Jennifer Izquierdo</b>	2 years	Student Assistant	Greater accessibility of our collections and more diverse collections.
<b>Rebecca Jefferson</b>	15 years	Curator, Isser and Rae Price Library of Judaica	Working in the George A. Smathers Libraries allows me to travel across time and space and encounter hundreds of different human experiences and perspectives, all while being in one place. There is nowhere else I could work that would allow me to hear the gasps of delight when students step into our beautiful Judaica Suite or hear their exclamations of “wow” and “cool” when they first get to touch a 16th century book, see the handwriting of Albert Einstein, or hold an Olympic torch.
<b>Melissa Jerome</b>	11 years, 16 years if you include when I was an undergrad student assistant	Digital Initiatives Librarian, Latin American & Caribbean Collection	The work various folks in the Libraries have done to digitize and make the collections available online is pretty incredible. My favorite within that is work on digitizing newspapers. I've been involved with newspaper digitization initiatives for nearly 12 years, and each time I explore these materials, I learn something new. I love getting to work with faculty and teaching students to navigate these resources, showing them how newspapers provide invaluable insights into our past and help us understand our present. It's also incredibly rewarding to connect with researchers and people from around the world who rely on these resources, and it's fulfilling to know that I can help them access materials that advance their research.
<b>Lori Johnson</b>	2 years	Access Service Manager	Libraries have evolved so much throughout the years. Though things have changed and everyone is looking towards the future, I believe that one of the best things that the Libraries do is preserve the past.
<b>Adrienne Johnson</b>	Not quite 1 year	Map Access Specialist	Working at Smathers Libraries means the dispersal of knowledge of very special collections. Working in the Map & Imagery Library, I learn things about our collection daily, but I also have the privilege of learning so much from the keepers of other collections. I love the enthusiasm of patrons who find what they are looking for and when they learn something new and unexpected. From the materials to the faculty and staff to the patrons, working at the Libraries is a wonderful job.
<b>McKenna Johnson</b>	1 year	User Relations Specialist	Growth and change. A lot of internal discussion seems to revolve around the threat of AI towards library integrity and presence. I do not believe that as AI continues to develop, the Libraries will become more and more obsolete. While the structure and the transference and accessibility of knowledge may change, the Libraries will always hold a tactile significance. There's so much beauty in creating an environment built on the principle of learning, and that as a concept can never be undone.
<b>Martha Kapelewski</b>	2 years	Associate Processing Archivist	I am very lucky to work doing what I love, in a space I love. The beauty of the campus, and particularly the gardens in front of Smathers Library, are a source of serenity and peace. Working for the Libraries has allowed me the opportunity to continue to grow all the intellectual pursuits acquired throughout graduate library studies. It is a wonderful place to be, full of great collections, and better yet, colleagues that are as amazing as our surroundings are. The ability to contribute to the education and enrichment of our students, is limitless. Smathers Libraries is where possibilities become actualities.
<b>Sean Keating</b>	9 months	Document Delivery Specialist—ARS ILL	Continue doing the above, as well as being centers in the fight against book bans and other gatekeeping or destruction of knowledge.
<b>Doug Kiker</b>	30 years	Library Associate	Smathers Libraries and UF have provided me with an entire career and home in Gainesville. I began in 1989 as a UF undergraduate student assistant working in the Circulation Department, shelving books. After a stint as a UF graduate student, I obtained a full-time Library Technical Assistant entry-level position in Government Documents working alongside longtime library veterans Paige Harper and Jody Hewitt! Although I spent time at other libraries throughout my career, the Libraries drew me back in 2001. Throughout the past 23 years, I have been happy and grateful to be working with so many wonderful coworkers and library leaders.
<b>Greg Krueger</b>	11 years	Payroll / Procurement Specialist, DSA   Business Services	Working for the Smathers Libraries means contributing to an institution dedicated to supporting education, research, and the preservation of both knowledge and cultural heritage. Being part of a team that provides essential resources and services to students, faculty, and researchers, ensuring they have the tools they need to succeed is very important to me.

<b>Gerald Langford</b>	28 years	Collections Metadata Specialist	I enjoy working on the “back end” to help make resources findable and accessible. I appreciate the efforts the Libraries have made to reach out and meet the needs of minority and underrepresented users.
<b>Stella Le</b>	1 month	Undergraduate Library Advisor	I would definitely say the borrowing services. My friends and I have borrowed the nice cameras and got to capture all the special moments.
<b>Lily Lewis</b>	1 year	Associate Director, Human Resources	Libraries are the most incredible institutions available. There's no where else you can go to freely borrow things, yet alone things that stand to deeply enrich your life. Libraries offer a means for resisting a highly consumerist lifestyle. I take pride in my role supporting the people that make the UF Libraries run.
<b>Ann Lindell</b>	29+ years	Director, AFA Library and Chair, Departmental Libraries	I've worked for the Smathers Libraries nearly 30 years, so I've built my career here. I've been able to maintain my practice as an arts and design librarian while adding increasing leadership to my professional portfolio. Each generation of librarians adds their expertise and perspectives, along with input from the faculty and students of their time. The result is a rich, layered, extensive collection of materials that exist for the benefit of current and future researchers.
<b>Jack Lockwood</b>	3 years	Student Assistant Supervisor	It will be a difficult time in the future; however, I see the Libraries as continued vestiges for intellectual freedom and places where students can feel safe from agendas that threaten their existence.
<b>Ashleigh Lucas</b>	Less than 1 year	Communications Intern	SASCwatch!
<b>Beatriz Lugo</b>	27 years	Library Associate	I like working in RDS and contributing to the development and maintenance of the library catalog. I enjoy participating in some committees and working with other departments to understand their information needs. I also like the professional development opportunities.
<b>Xiaoli Ma</b>	6 years	Metadata Librarian	Libraries in the next 100 years could be a digital only or AI service where humans only do back end work to ensure the systems are running as expected. It will be an information hub. The boundaries between libraries, museums, galleries, archives etc. will be gone.
<b>Tracy MacKay-Ratliff</b>	6 years	Director of LibraryPress@UF	I am honored to play my part in helping shape and share the transformative stories from our Libraries and special collections, as well as the scholarly works of UF faculty, staff, students, and our external community partners. My goal is to ensure that these diverse works are accessible to everyone, allowing people to enjoy them freely and draw inspiration from them. Here's to another 100 years of innovative milestones, compassionate collaborations, and welcoming, modern spaces. Go Gators!
<b>Ginessa Mahar</b>	5 years	Anthropology Librarian	I've observed the Smathers Libraries become more intentional in their collaboration with, inclusion of, and service to local, regional, and global communities. While librarianship has traditionally upheld open access as the gold standard for material availability, the Libraries have increasingly adopted a perspective that views collections through the lens of the communities whose materials we curate. Recognizing and respecting these community perspectives is crucial for delivering specialized and meaningful service. While copyright and permission have long guided us, we are now also guided by empathy, compassion, and a commitment to the ethical use and distribution of materials.
<b>Madison Manfio</b>	3 years	Shipping Coordinator	Best thing in the last 100 years are the services enabling patrons to obtain the resources they need for free and to give them as much support as possible for their studies. These services include interlibrary loan, course reserves, and distance patron services.
<b>Keith Manuel</b>	10 years	LACC Public Services Manager	A significant one that has impacted my research and work life was Stanley West and his colleagues' work implementing UF's role in the Farmington Plan for Latin American Studies, including starting SALALM here at the UF Libraries and doing the basic work of acquiring Caribbean materials and corresponding with other libraries in the U.S. and the Caribbean and Latin America to get their catalogs basically. I would probably name LACC after him or Rosa Mesa, the Latin American subject librarian in the 1970s. From the work of West, Mesa, and others the whole UF Latin American Studies project has flowed, in the Libraries and in teaching all over campus, and the state.
<b>Carol McAuliffe</b>	27 years	Interim Chair of Special Collections and Area Studies	I have been working for the Smathers Libraries for almost 30 years when I started as a student assistant in Library West. The UF Libraries were always a fascinating and comforting place for me—full of endless mysteries and fascinating stories. Since then, I have had the good fortune to work in different parts of the Libraries; Interlibrary Loan, the Map & Imagery Library, and now within the Special & Area Studies Department. I still find our unique and fascinating collections to be an endless source of inspiration, but it is truly the individuals who have come together to create the collections and to provide insightful context to the collections that are the ultimate treasure. They are the colleagues and curators that have thoughtfully developed collections across multiple disciplines. They are the collaborators that work with us both near and far. They are generous donors who want to leave a lasting legacy for future generations of students and researchers. And of course, they are our patrons, the students, faculty, staff, and community members that utilize these materials and make meaning of our shared histories through their work. They have all been a pleasure to work with and collaborate with over the years and they are what makes this an incredibly enriching place to work.
<b>Valrie Minson</b>	19 years, plus 2 as staff	Associate Dean of Research	Our Library history is U.S. and campus history! It has been less than 100 years since women were accepted into UF (1947) and Black students were admitted (1958). I think the steps we take daily to make the Libraries more accessible to everyone are something to be proud of.
<b>Boyd Murphree</b>	9 years	Political Papers Archivist	This is a difficult question to answer, given the Libraries' century of history. While I can't identify only one “best thing,” I would point to the 1980s as a decade that laid the foundation for much of the Libraries current success. During that decade, the Libraries implemented its first electronic catalog, the Marston Science Library opened, special collections was reorganized to include most of its current sections, preservation became an official unit, and George Smathers donated money that allowed for the renovation of Smathers Library.

<b>John Nemmers</b>	21 years	Curator of the PCMC and Acting Associate Chair, SASC	When I think of the Libraries I think of people. I enjoy connecting with students, faculty, researchers, and donors as much as I love working with our amazing collections. I also love how collaborative and supportive we all are in the Libraries. I'm constantly amazed by the people we work with daily - so much expertise, caring, and dedication.
<b>Ayman Osman</b>	2 years	Rare Materials Cataloger	In the next 100 years, hopefully more variations in materials: more languages, more digitization.
<b>Xuan Lily Pang</b>	6 years	Chair of Access and Resource Sharing	Provide information resources to UF community. Learn and grow. Help faculty, staff, and students.
<b>Tiffany Pennamon</b>	~3 years on and off	Graduate Intern	It's an honor to be part of an organization tasked with preserving, sharing, and curating such a rich resource of information related to history, the arts, literature, education, and more. As a graduate student, I've been able to work with my library colleagues to support student instruction at UF, assist with community outreach in the wider Gainesville area, and speak about potential research projects that are waiting to unfold after visits to our various archives.
<b>Laura Perry</b>	10 years	Head of Digital Services	The best thing libraries have accomplished in the last 100 years is undoubtedly the creation and ongoing development of their online presence. This digital transformation has revolutionized access to knowledge, broadened the reach of library services, and connected libraries with a global audience in ways that were once unimaginable. This digital revolution has not only ensured that libraries remain relevant in an increasingly digital world, but also has made them more essential than ever as centers of learning, connection, and discovery.
<b>Ariel Pomputius</b>	9 years	Health Sciences Liaison Librarian	Well, as a vampire who was definitely here 100 years ago and can speak to this in depth, I am really impressed at how the Libraries have adapted over time to continue their work as a bastion of information resources collection, distribution, and literacy on campus. We moved from books on shelves to books and media on shelves to books and media and databases on computer discs to books and media and databases in the cloud, available for anyone to browse from wherever, to books and media and databases in the cloud, but with the helping hand of AI. As an immortal who plans to stick around for at least another century, I can't wait to see how the Libraries adapt in the next 100 years!
<b>Courtney Pyche</b>	2 years	Public Health Liaison Librarian	Working at the Smathers Libraries is a dream. It means being part of a thriving community of academics who are devoted to working together to support cross-discipline collaborations, discovery of new information, and creating new knowledge. For me, in particular, it's an opportunity to give back to an institution that has made my life possible; as an Alachua County native, many of my teachers graduated from UF, I graduated from here, my lifelong friendships bloomed here, and I even met my husband here. I'm indescribably grateful to be a part of the Libraries where I can make a meaningful impact on our scholars every day.
<b>Patrick J. Reakes</b>	23.5 years	Senior Associate Dean	I know it's kind of a cliché, but I really feel a library is actually the "heart of a university," and the Smathers building personifies the long history of the important place the Libraries have held in the history of UF. I think what we do is really vital to the missions of UF and I'm proud of the way the Smathers Libraries have evolved with the changing models of research and teaching. As a UF graduate, faculty member, parent, athletic booster, and donor, much of my life has been wrapped up in UF and having a long tenure on campus is more than I could have hoped for when I started my career as a librarian.
<b>Dan Reboussin</b>	A tenured faculty member who came up through the ranks. Began in 1986 as a graduate assistant, and in 1992, became a full-time staff member.	African Studies Collections Curator	As a student, I learned to value UF's library collections and the support of several key librarians. I respected the outstanding public service ethic, expertise, and experience of several librarians who I later worked with and learned from. I participated in introducing digital and online services as the internet began to be increasingly essential to academic work and libraries, and for 15 years taught research strategies to graduate students using both print and electronic resources in a rapidly changing environment. It was both challenging, a real contribution to research, and fun to be part of the library while providing essential services to faculty and students during a period of rapid change. Beyond technological changes, I found great meaning and satisfaction in collecting, preserving, and making accessible/available unique resources from Africa. From wildlife conservation, elephant morphological data, photographic documentation of the early years of Dian Fossey's Mountain Gorilla research at Karisoke Research Center, to the original drawings of Papa Mfum'u Eto 1er who sold his comic books on the streets of Kinshasa, DRC in the 1990s, there is "always something new out of Africa" (a phrase credited to Pliny the Elder 2 millennia ago).
<b>Jade Restrepo</b>	1 year	Student Assistant	Working at Smathers Libraries is a means of not only funding my education, but expanding my soft skills through assisting patrons and strengthening my communication skills while learning more about resources offered to me at UF.
<b>Victoria Riccobono</b>	Less than 1 year	Special Collections Student Assistant	Working at Smathers means aiding both students and patrons as they find the research material they need. It means a community of individuals who are curious to learn and understand more about the community and those around us.
<b>Clifford Richmond</b>	23 year 8 months	Digital Development Unit Supervisor, LTS	Knowing that I am supporting all the units of the University and Academic Health Center by providing access to cutting-edge and secure technology services and resources.
<b>Rae Riiska</b>	1 year	Communications Assistant	I think the Libraries will continue to foster their relationship with the UF community and hopefully, within the next 100 years, we become a fond memory that most gators look back on when they think of their alma mater. Yes there are football games and movie nights in the dorms, but when students think of a time they needed help or just a comforting space that's truly theirs, I hope they think of the Libraries.
<b>Caleb Del Rio</b>	8 years	Digital Services Specialist	I think that the Libraries' work with SPOHP in collecting, digitizing, and providing free online access to the stories of individuals from marginalized communities, particularly indigenous tribes, is some of the most impactful and important work we've done. Working with marginalized communities to record their stories and to provide ongoing access to those memories for future generations of researchers and members of the community does more to strengthen ties with those community members than keeping tribal artifacts solely for the purpose of display.

<b>Dharma Sandvik</b>	2 years	Collections Services Assistant at Library West	In my view, libraries as a whole is one of the few things society has done completely right. Smathers Libraries has excelled by continuing to allow a place where people can enter and enjoy without the expectation of spending money.
<b>Trey Shelton</b>	11+ years	Chair, ARCS	Continued focus on services that expand how users can gain and create knowledge by supporting a wide variety of literacies that contribute to learning and research. Librarians focused on guiding users in how to locate and interpret printed information sources, and more recently on how to search and evaluate digital resources. As data science and artificial intelligence changes how research is done in all disciplines, we are now focusing on helping users gain the skills needed to harness these tools to process and gain insight from huge amounts of information in the form of data. As the nature of information and the tools we use to understand that information continue to evolve, so shall the role of the Librarian.
<b>Christy Shorey</b>	18 years	Circulation System Team Leader - Access and Resource Sharing	The Smathers Libraries shine not only in the services provided to the UF academic community, but in its partnerships with external groups and institutions. The Digital Library of the Caribbean is a fine example, as is the acquisition of the Panama Canal Museum Collection. Both have provided opportunities to collect and disseminate information to a wider audience. The Libraries' partnership with Oak Hammock retirement community provides ongoing access to library resources, enabling residents to pursue continual learning. Support of the Open Journal System has allowed UF colleges and departments to publish academic journals in an open access platform, helping to share the scholarly insights of our institution. As the physical location of the Florida Academic Repository (FLARE), the Libraries serve as collection managers for academic libraries state-wide, allowing access to materials that an institution may need to remove from their shelves for various reasons, and working with partner institutions for fill gaps in collections.
<b>Garfield Simmons</b>	12 years	Library Assistant III	I like working in a public setting where I get to assist people with questions that they have trouble answering themselves. In particular working at a Health Sciences Library, I take pride in assisting the medical community with these types of questions.
<b>Jasmine Simmons</b>	Almost 2 years	Student Success Librarian	Working at the UF Smathers Libraries offers me the unique opportunity to primarily focus on engaging with diverse campus populations, fostering collaborative relationships with support units and student organizations, and contributing to the development of comprehensive student success programs and initiatives within the Libraries. It's deeply rewarding to know that I may have made a meaningful impact on a student's experience as they progress through their academic journey, whether through providing resources, offering guidance, or facilitating connections that support their success.
<b>Finley Simons</b>	Less than 1 year as a full-time staff plus 1 year as a student assistant	Complex Copy Cataloger (Library Associate 1) in the Resource Description Services Department's Government Documents Unit	One of the best things that the Libraries have done in the last 100 years, in my opinion, would be the preservation of history through the Special Collections. From the personal documents of Zora Neale Hurston that were saved from being burned after her death, the photographs and documentation of the Seminole people in Florida, the newer Florida LGBTQ+ collection, and so many other important parts of the Special Collections of the Smathers Libraries that represent the beautiful diversity, continual change, and irreplaceable tenacity unique to Florida and its history. All of these pieces of history are so important and it makes me incredibly proud that the Smathers Libraries are part of keeping them safe for future generations to learn about.
<b>Katie Smith</b>	Almost 7 years	Conservator/Interim Preservation Librarian	Collect, preserve, and share a dynamic and intensely varied amount of knowledge to anyone who wants access to it. It's wild when you think about it. We have six Libraries and fourteen Special & Area Studies Collections that hold everything from the earliest printed books and illuminated manuscripts to Spiderman movie costumes, from early surgeon tools and skulls to Olympic torches to a whole lot more I can't even begin to number or explain. I love that in the past 100 years this school and the Libraries have expanded to who has access to it—reaching out to diverse groups of peoples who deserve an equal amount of education and access to knowledge.
<b>Laura Spears</b>	9 years	Director of Assessment & User Experience	Working for Smathers Libraries has been an opportunity to participate in the education journeys for UF students and their instructors. I enjoy working with a team of people dedicated to this purpose, who are all lifelong learners and passionate about libraries. I really like being part of a dynamic institution that fights within and without to provide a place, resources and services that allow individuals to flourish.
<b>Jacqueline Stringham</b>	Less than 1 year	Collections Student Assistant	It means managing and protecting millions of books: the lives and ideals of the people who wrote them.
<b>Daniela Suzarte</b>	3 years	Special and Area Studies Collection Services Assistant	I must admit I don't have a full scope of every project or accomplishment the Libraries have achieved over the past 100 years. However, here are a few that I find cool and exciting! Fall Fest: This fun and interactive yearly event is a fantastic way to connect with students and showcase the value of our Libraries. Volunteering is always enjoyable and provides a great opportunity to meet students, meet/hang out with colleagues and share the wonderful resources, spaces, and services the Libraries provide. Native American Oral History Interviews: This remarkable project preserves a historic and cultural legacy that enriches our Libraries. By bringing narratives that might have been obscured or erased into our archives, it ensures they are accessible to researchers worldwide. This achievement reflects the incredible efforts of those who worked on the project, including collaboration with institutions and indigenous communities, grant writing, metadata creation, digitization, and more. It stands as a testament to the dedication and excellence of our library employees. Library Guides: These are an invaluable tool for creating and sharing critical information in an accessible format. They make it easier for patrons to find the resources and information they need. As our web and accessibility standards continue to improve, LibGuides will play an increasingly important role in expanding access and sharing information with our diverse patron base.
<b>Patricia Takacs</b>	2 years	Political Science Librarian	A resource and place full of experts for the rest of campus to lean on when it comes to information literacy, having impacts stretching throughout the campus when it comes to knowing about misinformation and disinformation especially as we enter the AI age.

<b>Angela Tang</b>	1 year	Student Assistant	I get to be surrounded by books which was always a childhood dream of mine.
<b>Sarah Tew</b>	2.5 years	Project Coordinator - US Caribbean & Florida Digital Newspaper Project	I think the Libraries expanding digital collections through the acquisition of born digital materials and databases, the digitization of own collections, and collaboration with other institutions to add their materials to our digital collections (eg. UFDC, FDNL, dLOC).
<b>Leonardo Tolentino</b>	20 years	Facilities Assistant	It means a lot! My three kids went to UF and worked for the Libraries at one point. Working for the Smathers Libraries made me realize how important the Libraries are to one's ongoing and continued education and the support it provides all its users. I noticed a lot of the graduating students take pictures in front of the Libraries, that just means the Libraries has become a big part of their campus life.
<b>Flo Turcotte</b>	27 years	Literary Manuscripts Archivist	When I first started working part-time in the Libraries, I was working on a PhD and thought I would become a professor of Religion. A good friend counseled me, "All roads lead to Library School." I laughed. Indeed, that is what transpired, and I have found my true vocation here in Smathers. I love the variety of my work, and my ability to serve students and researchers through connecting them with library resources. The Libraries have been so generous with providing me with the training and professional development opportunities I need to be the best I can be at doing my job. Working here also opens doors to community connections, and the chance to help make Gainesville, Alachua County, and even Florida a better place to live. Perhaps most importantly, I have the privilege of working with truly inspiring people who are willing to share their knowledge and experience. This makes me excited to come to work, and I learn something new every single day.
<b>Joanna Tuskey</b>	Almost 10 years	Library Associate 2 (Daytime Operations Manager) at Marston Science Library	Honestly, I think our growth and adaptation, as we're continuously evolving whether it be with reimagining our spaces to provide more study space, with the technology we purchase, or extending our operating hours so students can have a familiar place to study and work overnight (ex. with Marston's current 24/5 schedule, or Library West and Marston's extended hours during final exams), and in many other ways. We also do a lot internally to show our appreciation for each other as colleagues and our achievements through Dean Russell's Shout-Outs, Town Hall Snapshots, committee work, and annual events such as Convocation, Winter Celebration, and Spring Picnic, in addition to hosting smaller gatherings and celebrations for our overnight and student teams.
<b>Judith Russell</b>	18 years	Dean of University Libraries	Working here has been a great joy! Our users are inspiring and our collections are amazing, but the best part has been working with our wonderful and dedicated staff!
<b>Barrett Uhler</b>	9.5 years	Public Services Assistant with the Latin American and Caribbean Collection.	I believe one of the best things that the Libraries have done in the last 100 years is connect more with their local communities in meaningful ways. Libraries evolved a great deal over the last 100 years going from an exclusive space that collects and protects documents to a community-centric hub that invites everyone to explore the collections and connect with a librarian. Public libraries and academic libraries host speakers from all walks of life and cultural ways of knowing and open these events to the public. The collections have grown to include community-driven interests and subjects that open readers up to the experiences outside of their own world. The Libraries are an opportunity and right to knowledge, experiences, and meaningful connections.
<b>Natercia Valle</b>	~3 years	Assistant Librarian	I love the collaborative and welcoming environment at Marston Science Library. This positive environment translates into the service we provide to patrons. Seeing how students enjoy visiting Marston for resources and studying is always wonderful.
<b>Margarita Vargas-Betancourt</b>	13 years	Special Collections Librarian, LACC	Working at LACC means to celebrate my Mexican cultural heritage and that of other Latin Americans and Latinx communities everyday. It has also allowed me to empower BIPOC students, to make them proud of their history and their voice.
<b>Joseph A. Vickers</b>	3 years	Library in-house Security for Smathers Library and Library West, also Circulation Staff	I believe having such a diverse campus. The most amazing thing is having the acceptance of all cultures and peoples from around the world openly celebrated in the various heritage months that are shared by all. This continues to openly share that our Libraries are a safe space for all and it warms my heart as I continually strive to relate to the students we serve.
<b>Ben Walker</b>	20 years	Associate Dean, Faculty Affairs; Access and Technical Services	I think our expansion into the digital world has been significant. Some of that was driven by the technology and trends of the time, but we were also early adopters of digitization as a way to expand access and preserve materials. That work has led to increased access to materials that people might not otherwise have an opportunity to use.
<b>Hannah Whitaker</b>	Less than one year	Women's and Gender Studies Librarian	In 100 years, the Smathers Libraries will continue to be a hub of knowledge and research. Information literacy classes will abound, books will continue to circulate, and librarians will foster a love of learning.
<b>Kimberly Williams</b>	28 years	Library Associate 1	I have loved working in the Libraries from the age of 18. I met a lot of interesting people as staff and students with interesting stories. I have always enjoyed being able to help others. I also have enjoyed having so much knowledge right at my fingertips every day.
<b>Nikki Worrell</b>	3 weeks	Course Reserves Coordinator	The best thing the Libraries have done in the last 100 years is speaking on behalf of patrons regarding banned books. It is essential that we fight for freedom of expression even if we disagree with the content of some books. Also, having eBooks available for patrons is very important for the growth of the Libraries.
<b>Hank Young</b>	20 years	Principal Cataloger	Working for the UF Libraries has given me the opportunity to work with a great group of people locally, but also nationally and internationally. Our participation in the Program for Cooperative Cataloging means that UF cataloging is considered some of the best in the world—which is especially important given the number of unique items in our collection.