



# *LIBRARY NEWS*

For the faculty of the  
University of Florida

A publication of the  
George A. Smathers Libraries

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## From the Past, For the Future: the PALMM Digital Initiative

University libraries throughout Florida are challenged to provide access to the rare printed works in their collections. Often these items are so fragile that each time they are handled they deteriorate significantly, so usage must somehow be limited while continuing to allow them to be consulted and appreciated. By creating digital images of these works and serving them over the Internet, academic libraries offer researchers, students, and the public access to Florida's rich history and environments.

In 1998, a group of librarians from UF, FSU, USF, UNF, UCF, FIU, UWF and FAU was charged by the SUS Library Directors with formulating a digitization plan that would showcase the wealth of materials curated in special collections throughout the university system. This group, chaired by Erich Kesse, Director of the Digital Library Center, UF, created the "Millennium Project." This project, now known as the "Florida Heritage Collection," consists of over 500 full texts loaded on the servers of the Florida Center for Library Automation (FCLA). Sampling the database you might encounter accounts from explorers in Florida during the 16<sup>th</sup>

century, source documents from the 19<sup>th</sup> century concerning removal of the Seminoles from Florida, personal accounts of Florida life in the pioneer eras, illustrated tourist brochures from the early 20<sup>th</sup> century and many others. A choice of linking to a JPEG version for better online viewing or PDF for better printing is given for each item.

Aware of the growing number of digital projects in the Florida university system, FCLA created a larger digital initiative called PALMM (Publication of Archival, Library and Museum Materials) for the libraries of the State University System of Florida. This program supports individual and cooperative digital library initiatives. Priscilla Caplan, Director of Digital Resources at FCLA, supervises the development and integration of the SUS library digital projects.

As these works were being selected and digitized, Stephanie Haas, UF's environmental science librarian, was developing an Institute for Museum and Libraries Services (IMLS) grant to explore the possibilities of linking Florida museum specimens and bibliographic literature using the Z39.50 communications protocol. Entitled

*(Continued on page 2)*

## Frequently Asked Questions

**Q** Why do we need additional space in the libraries?

**A** We need additional space because of the growth in the student population as well as the growth of the print collections upon which many UF scholars continue to rely.

**Q** How can I help make this newsletter more useful to me?

**A** You can help us shape this newsletter to better address your needs by responding to the brief survey in this issue.

**Q** How can I prevent my students from complaining that the library doesn't have enough books for them to complete group assignments?

**A** Please consult your subject specialist (list at <http://www.uflib.ufl.edu/selects.html>) to discuss the availability of library resources to support the assignment you've planned. If your students will need to rely on a limited number of books, we can help locate the titles and place them on Course Reserve. Course reserve makes it possible for students to share access by limiting circulation to periods ranging from 2 hours to 7 days. We can also recommend indexes and databases appropriate to specific topics and subject areas that your students can search to locate article citations or, in many cases, full text journal articles in electronic form.

Jimmie Lundgren  
Resource Services

## PALMM Digital Initiative *(Continued from page 1)*

"Linking Florida's Natural Heritage," the funded grant created a gateway to Florida's biotic information. Stephanie pulled together curators, scientists, and librarians from various state, federal, and non-profit agencies willing to open their databases as a foundation for a gateway. While the portal for searching databases simultaneously (mixing apples and oranges with books and worms), represents a breakthrough in service, another important component of the grant enabled digitization of selected Florida biological literature. This grant added an additional two hundred digitized texts on Florida's ecosystems and species to the FCLA server. Stephanie has now joined Erich as Assistant Director of the DLC (newly relocated to the second floor of Smathers Library).



New digital formats demanded innovative approaches to cataloging. An SUS Task Force was created to work on cataloging and access guidelines for electronic resources. Co-chaired by Jim Michael, USF, and Jimmie Lundgren, UF, the Task Force focused attention on descriptive cataloging, access, and retrieval. Records created for these items go beyond typical cataloging to include associations with a Florida History Timeline, geospatial and taxonomic information, and the Sunshine State Curriculum. Elaine Henjum and Mary Ann O'Daniel, FCLA, worked behind the scenes to implement a new catalog file of these records that are hot linked to full text.

Currently the Florida Heritage Collection (<http://susdl.fcla.edu/fh/>) and Linking Florida's Natural Heritage (<http://susdl.fcla.edu/lfnh>) are the principal components of the PALMM Project. Among the coming additions to the PALMM Project will be maps, historical children's literature, and newspaper articles.

The PALMM projects offer a rich digital resource for research, study, and education. Your thoughts and comments on these projects are welcome!

Jimmie Lundgren, Resource Services  
and Stephanie Haas, Digital Library Center

## **Ref eXpress** Returning Soon!

Last spring from mid-March to the end of the semester, the George A. Smathers Libraries piloted Ref eXpress, a new interactive reference service. Using the Internet and Moo-based software, Ref eXpress allowed users to log on to the service from home or office, connect with a librarian, ask a question and receive a response in real-time. Although Ref eXpress was enthusiastically received by staff and users alike, we felt that different software would greatly enhance the service. During the summer, we examined several software packages. We are pleased to announce that we have selected some terrific new software, NetAgent from eShare Communications, Inc. to deliver the Ref eXpress service.

eShare Communications' software and services are being used by major companies and institutions across the country including 1-800 Flowers, Sprint, America Online, UCLA and the University of Southern California. Our software selection, NetAgent, provides features such as "pushpage technology" allowing us to push a Web page directly to a user's desktop and for the librarian to see the same Web pages as users while working with them. NetAgent also will enable librarians to create PowerPoint slideshows to answer certain frequently asked questions and provides an automated response feature for hours when librarians are not available.

Our goal is for Ref eXpress to return to active service in early 2001. Please look for additional announcements and updates on the Libraries' homepage. We hope you'll try Ref eXpress.

Ann Lindell, Mimi Pappas, Alice Primack,  
Jana Ronan and Colleen Seale

## **Now is the opportune time to donate to the Libraries.**

You may use the online giving form at [Ufgiving.uff.ufl.edu](http://Ufgiving.uff.ufl.edu)

Books may be donated to the Gifts & Exchange Unit.  
Call (352) 392-0355 or e-mail [stecarr@mail.uflib.ufl.edu](mailto:stecarr@mail.uflib.ufl.edu)

## **Nature Alert!**

The logon ID and password for electronic access to the journal, *Nature*, will expire on November 30, 2000 and the UF Libraries will no longer be able to provide this journal electronically. The Nature Publishing Group will begin charging for electronic access (\$11,700) and there will be a 12-issue delay for 28 different sections of the journal.

The Libraries will continue to provide the print version of *Nature* and we regret any problems you may encounter. Please direct your comments and questions about the license terms to Nature Customer Support Center at: [institutions@natureny.com](mailto:institutions@natureny.com).



## **Shop for Holiday Gifts**

at the

**Smathers Library Bookstore**

Located on the first floor  
of Smathers Library

Open Mon-Thurs 10 a.m.—2 p.m.  
392-0355 ext. 176

**You'll find old UF yearbooks,  
vinyl records, children's literature,  
books of all kinds, and more!**

**Botanical reproduction print  
holiday cards  
from the Libraries on sale soon**



UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

University of Florida  
George A. Smathers  
Libraries  
P.O. Box 117001  
Gainesville, FL 32611-7001

Phone: (352) 392-0342  
Fax: (352) 392-7251  
Email:  
carturn@mail.uflib.ufl.edu

**We're on the  
Web!**

<http://www.uflib.ufl.edu/PS/LibraryNews>



## Gainesville African American Community Activities to be Documented

The Department of Special and Area Studies Collections of the Smathers Library has retained Joel Buchanan to work on a project that will document the social, cultural, and civic activities of the Gainesville African American community during the period before the Civil Rights Movement.

Mr. Buchanan, a former teacher and well-known voice in the local African American community, has extensive knowledge of the history of the community and numerous area contacts.

Mr. Buchanan's mission is to lead the effort to collect manuscripts and other

documentation from this period of American history that has been overlooked. The process has begun with a collection of papers from the Visionaires, a chartered organization of black women in Gainesville. The collection tracks the civic, cultural, and social affairs of Gainesville's black community beginning in the 1930's.

Mr. Buchanan is currently collecting funeral records dating back 40 years that will assist him in putting together information on this period of history. Photographs of this era will be collected and exhibited.

Joyce Dewsbury,  
Dept. of Special and Area Studies Collections

**Most libraries will be closed Fri. Nov. 10 and Sat. Nov. 11  
for Veterans Day and Homecoming.**

**Check the library schedule for Thanksgiving, final exams, and  
intersession hours at <http://www.uflib.ufl.edu/hours.html>**



UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

University of Florida  
George A. Smathers Libraries  
PO Box 117001  
Gainesville FL 32611-7001

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Shelley Arlen  
Joyce Dewsbury  
Ann Lindell  
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Alice Primack  
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Design: Barbara Hood

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