

Florida Educational Equity Report – George A. Smathers Libraries 2010-2011

The George A. Smathers Libraries system is strongly committed to a comprehensive approach to diversity and continuously seeks to improve its outreach to diverse users, to conserve historical records from underrepresented cultures and groups and to increase the diversity of its staff.

To this end the George A. Smathers Libraries has -

❖ Sought financial support for a number of diversity initiatives through the following grant proposals:

Current project: Digitizing Jamaican Periodicals – To digitize print holdings of the National Library of Jamaica currently inaccessible to UF researchers, to be included in UFDC’s Digital Library of the Caribbean.

Current project: Center for Latin American Studies (CLAS) Title VI – A four-year grant award to support Latin American Collection development and scholarship in the Center for Latin American Studies. Funding for library student assistants; librarian travel-related expenses; and digitization projects. (\$87,787)

Current project: Center for African Studies (CAS) Title VI – Four-year funding will provide \$20,000 for library OPS personnel, \$60,000 for acquisitions, \$8,000 for four thematic areas of collection enhancement, \$16,000 for digitization, and \$8,000 in consortial library projects. (\$112,000)

Current project: Center for Research Libraries (CRL) – Funding to work with the Spanish firm VINFRA to scan approximately 3,146 wills and testaments in the notary records for 1810 – 1820, held in the Archivo Historico Provincial de Cadiz, Spain. Resulting digital files will reveal the future feasibility of a larger-scale effort to add other documents and expand the timeframe. (\$5,500)

Current project: Digital Library of the Caribbean: Disseminating and Preserving Records of Daily Life
Subcontract over four years beginning October 2009, to digitize newspaper runs from various countries in the Caribbean. Leaders are FIU’s Latin American & Caribbean Center and UF’s Center for Latin American Studies, with partnering libraries at FIU, UCF, USF, and University of the Virgin Islands.

Current project: Express Outreach Project Award from National Network of Libraries of Medicine - Southeastern/Atlanta Region: To conduct an assessment of the health literacy of parishioners from Mt. Canaan Missionary Baptist Church, in Jacksonville, and to develop and implement a plan to address low health literacy levels in Jacksonville. (\$7,673 for 2009-2010)

Current Project: Primary Documents Video Tutorials - to partner with UF’s Digital Worlds Institute to produce two Information Literacy Video Tutorials to promote the Libraries’ online collections, showing the relationships between primary and secondary sources and their use in research focusing on the following two historical documents:

- **The Black Migration, 1915-1930.** Two million Black Americans left the South seeking better jobs and an improved racial climate.
- **The Sand Creek Massacre, 1864.** In a surprise attack by Colorado militia on a friendly Cheyenne Indian settlement, an estimated 130 people were killed, mostly women and children, leading to a Congressional investigation.

Current Project: Revealing Florida’s Arab Immigrants: An Oral History Collection - A partnership with the Dept. of Languages, Literatures and Cultures to develop a digital oral history collection focused on the daily lives and struggles of Arab immigrant families who have made Florida their home.

- ❖ Organized, hosted and/or participated in a number of exhibits, events and projects including:

Exhibit: James Haskins: Author, Teacher & Social Activist - February 4-25, 2011

The Smathers Libraries and African American Studies celebrated Black History Month and the works of Jim Haskins.

Exhibit: Looking Forward, Looking Back: Celebrating 80 Years of Latin American Studies at the University of Florida - March 20-April 15, 2011 - Coincided with the 60th Annual Center for Latin American Studies Conference

Exhibit: A Celebration of Jewish Life and Culture around the World - May 4-June 30, 2011

Coinciding with the annual Jewish Heritage Month in May, this exhibit highlighted treasures from one of America's foremost Judaica research collections, The Isser and Rae Price Library of Judaica, to emphasize and celebrate the great richness and diversity of Jewish culture in various communities throughout the world.

Exhibit: Retrospections: Celebrating the Life and Legacy of A. Quinn Jones - March 2011

The Thomas Center Main Gallery, 302 NE 6th Avenue, Gainesville

An artifact exhibit showcased the life and legacy of academic and professional standout, A. Q. Jones, the principal of Gainesville's first Lincoln High. The exhibit joined UF's Black History Month celebration, "A Mahogany Renaissance."

"Black Alumni Weekend"- September 2011 - The Smathers Libraries participated at a tabling event with posters and photographs

Price Library of Judaica 30 year rededication - The George A. Smathers Libraries' Isser and Rae Price Library of Judaica held a 30 year rededication ceremony on Sunday, March 6, 2011 in Smathers Library and Library West. Distinguished speakers included UF President Bernard Machen; Professor Emeritus and former UF Executive Vice President Harold Hanson; University Librarian Emeritus Robert Singerman; Dean Emeritus and Professor, College of Journalism and Communications Ralph Lowenstein; Professor and Director of the Center for Jewish Studies Jack Kugelmass; Head of the Price Library Rebecca Jefferson and Jack and Samuel Price.

Workshop: "Collaboration Workshop for Women in Science and Engineering"

Ongoing project: Academic Research Library Longitudinal Recruitment Study - Phase II of a multi-year longitudinal study to investigate the efficacy of the current recruitment strategies employed by the Association of Research Libraries (ARLs). These strategies include advertising job vacancies and soliciting applications from a broad spectrum of applicants, with the purpose of recruiting traditionally underrepresented groups in the academic library workforce.

Ongoing online exhibit: The Efraín Barradas Collection of Mexican & Cuban Film Posters: This exhibition features selections from the *Efraín Barradas Collection of Mexican & Cuban Film Posters* collected and donated by Dr. Ramón A. Figueroa.

Ongoing project: Asian American Student Union Archives Collection: This collection is composed of materials from the Asian American Student Union is composed of the Chinese American Student Association (CASA), the Filipino Student Association (FSA), the Korean Undergraduate Student Union (KUSA), the Vietnamese Student Organization (VSO) as well as the Health Educated Asian Leaders (HEAL).

Ongoing project: Panama and the Canal Digital Collection: This collection is a joint project from the University of Florida George A. Smathers Libraries and the Panama Canal Museum. Panama and the Canal builds from the Panama Canal Museum's rich collection of Panama and Canal Zone materials and the extensive holdings on Panama and the whole of Latin America from the University of Florida George A. Smathers Libraries' Latin American

Collection, Government Documents Collection, and the Map & Imagery Library. The Government Documents Department of University of Florida Libraries is the Center of Excellence for the U.S. Panama Canal Commission and its predecessor agencies.

Ongoing project: Cuban Imprints Digital Collection: The collection includes ephemeral artifacts from Cuba and early imprints on Cuba's colonial past, efforts for self-governance, slavery, nationalism, foreign investment, crime, women's rights, spirituality, popular culture and human rights. Twentieth-century political movements and upheavals will be given special attention.

Ongoing project: Women in Development Digital Collection: *Women in Development* collects research on societal structures in Africa, the Caribbean, and Latin America. These materials reflect the impact of women in rural and urban settings. They discuss issues of education, economic growth and legal rights among other topics. Collected here is the research of scholars such as [Elsa Chaney](#), [Susan Poats](#), [Helen Safa](#), [Anita Spring](#), [Marianne Schmink](#), and [others](#) who have pioneered research into women's issues in developing countries. These resources serve not only as research archive, but also as a means for building infrastructure to better support women in developing societies.

"UF Chapter of the Society of Women Engineers and Women In Science and Engineering Group" – Smathers faculty actively engaged in supporting and offering assistance through outreach to the groups' members.

"UF McNair Scholars Program" - Smathers Libraries faculty actively engaged in teaching research classes for this program which exists to support undergraduate college students from low-income, first-generation and underrepresented backgrounds in their progress towards a Ph.D degree.

"SEAGEP – South East Alliance for Graduate Education and the Professoriate" – SEAGEP is designed to increase diversity in the nation's professoriate in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics by providing students with exceptional Ph.D experiences. Smathers Libraries faculty actively engaged in teaching research classes for the SEAGEP program.

- ❖ Sought to recruit employees from a broad spectrum, including members of ethnic minorities and disabled persons as an integral part of the Libraries' recruiting program. George A. Smathers Libraries publicizes vacant librarian positions in over one hundred locations including the following specifically focused on diversity: The Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual Librarians Network; Latinos in Higher Ed; ACRL African American Librarians list; ALA/LAMA Diversity Officers Discussion Group; REFORMANET; Diversity at the American Library Association (ALA); Black Caucus of the American Library Association; and Asian-Pacific American Librarians Association.

George A. Smathers Libraries currently employs 286 faculty and staff with a general composition of 17.5% from underrepresented groups (American Indian/Alaskan; Asian; Black/African American; Hispanic/Latino) and 57% women. The composition of the faculty at the George A. Smathers Libraries is 64% women and 12.5% from underrepresented ethnic groups (Asian; Black/African American; Hispanic/Latino) - of which 5% are African American.