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SAPL Newsletter : 2011 : 11 (Fall)

Nelson Poynter Memorial Library.

Society for Advancement of Poynter Library.

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SAPL Officers

President: Ann Sackett
Vice-President: Sue Fraser

Treasurer: Louise Weaver
Secretary: Marci Jacobs

Welcome - from Ann Sackett, SAPL President

A warm welcome to our new SAPL members. The membership event held at the home of Louise Weaver in October was a chance for current and prospective members to get to know more about SAPL and hear best-selling author Sterling Watson speak about writing, and his new book "Fighting in the Shade". That same weekend, SAPL was represented at the Festival of Reading on the USFSP campus and many participants took advantage of learning more about our organization.

At SAPL's Annual Meeting last spring, awards were given to first, second and third place winners in SAPL's 2010 Fiction and Poetry contest. USFSP student Judith Anderson was awarded first prize for her short story "Green Swamp and first prize in poetry was awarded to Sarah Smith for her poem "Sisters and Mothers. St. Petersburg's Poet Laureate Peter Meinke judged the contest, and SAPL members were treated to an illuminating and lively conversation when author Dennis Lehane and Peter talked about their inspirations, influences, hopes and writing habits.

Remember, your SAPL membership will give you access to USFSP's Poynter Library's more than 300,000 books and journals. You may check out as many as 5 books for a period of up to 3 weeks. Severe cuts in the University's budget make SAPL membership more important than ever. Thank you for being a part of this important effort to support USFSP's beautiful Poynter Library.

Reflections on SAPL - by Carol Hixson, Dean of Library

The past few years have been a time of change and transition for SAPL and the Library. As the Library has lost more of its base funding, at the same time that student enrollment has increased and demands for a wide range of services have grown, it has not been possible for Library staff to continue to play a strong support role to SAPL. I am grateful to SAPL Board members for stepping in to fill the void in organizing and hosting SAPL events and for donating their personal time, as well as funds, for these events. Established in 1984 to provide support to the Poynter Library, SAPL is a valued and valuable partner as the Library seeks to fulfill its mission of service to the students and faculty of USFSP.

New Format for Newsletter - by Carol Hixson, Dean of Library

With this issue of the *SAPL Newsletter*, we are moving to a simpler format, rather than the previous column style. This change is being done to simplify the publication so that we can issue more frequent updates to you. All issues will also be published in the USFSP Digital Archive here: <http://dspace.nelson.usf.edu/xmlui/handle/10806/958>



At some point in the near future, new issues of the *SAPL Newsletter* will be published ***only*** electronically. This change will save printing and mailing costs. If you would like to continue to receive the *Newsletter* in print or if you would like to receive an electronic notification of its publication in the USFSP Digital Archive, please notify the Library Dean's Office by phone (873-4400) or email (hixson@usfsp.edu)

Strategic Plan - by Carol Hixson, Dean of Library

The Library has just published its new strategic plan which is available entirely online:

<http://dspace.nelson.usf.edu/xmlui/handle/10806/3302>

This plan is the culmination of discussions and work that took place with USFSP faculty and all staff of the Library between September 2010 and October 2011. In it, we articulate a new vision, mission, and values, along with our strategic goals for the next five years. In it we state that:



The Nelson Poynter Memorial Library's mission is to be an active partner in the teaching, research, and learning of the University of South Florida St. Petersburg's students, faculty, and staff. We promote student-centered learning and research in an inviting, creative, and collaborative environment. Our skilled faculty and staff strive to provide our academic community with easy access to high quality information when, where, and in the format in which it is needed. We offer enhanced services and instruction to help students use information ethically, effectively, and efficiently. We provide the skilled leadership needed to preserve the knowledge and institutional history of USFSP. Through strategic community and professional partnerships we expose our campus community to additional resources, new ideas, and innovative opportunities.

Our vision is to "strive to be the gateway to the world's information, working in partnership with students and faculty and leading them on the path to finding, evaluating, utilizing, creating, and preserving the information and data resources that they need to be successful throughout their lives." At a time when the academic and the information environments are evolving so rapidly and continuously, the Nelson Poynter Memorial Library is uniquely qualified to support the changing information, instruction, and research needs of the entire USFSP community.

We invite you to reflect with us and join us on our path forward!

The USFSP Digital Archive – by Jim Schnur, Head of Special Collections and University Archives



In April 2011, the Nelson Poynter Memorial Library launched the USFSP Digital Archive, a place to store the collective output of the faculty, students, administrators and staff of the University of South Florida St. Petersburg. As of November 1, 2011, the Digital Archive contained over 3000 items, including digitized collections of the student newspaper, the Crow's Nest; SAPL newsletters and the winners of the Bayboro Fiction contest; Bayboro Briefing (an externally focused campus newsletter published between 1988-1998); the Unofficial Grapevine (an internal newsletter published between 1993-2002); Campus Board agendas and minutes; faculty publications; the USFSP Student Research Journal and much more. The Library's Digital Collections Team (Dean Carol Hixson, Tina Neville, Jim Schnur, Berrie Watson) administers the archive and works with USFSP faculty, students and others across campus to promote its effective use.

Visit the archive at <http://dspace.nelson.usf.edu/> and search on your own name or the name of your favorite figure from the University's past or present and see what we have already collected. Check out the history of SAPL in the archive (pictured below.) New items are added every day, making this an incredible resource for USFSP and the community around us.

A screenshot of the USFSP Digital Archive website. The header includes the USFSP logo and "Digital Archive" text. Below the header is a breadcrumb trail: Home > UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES > RG600 Nelson Poynter Memorial Library > Library Outreach > Society for Advancement of Poynter Library. The main content area is titled "Society for Advancement of Poynter Library" and features a search box with a "Go" button. Below the search box is a paragraph of text about the SAPL's history, established in 1984. To the right of the text is a circular logo for SAPL featuring a tree. Below the text is a link for more information on the Society. At the bottom of the main content area, there is a section for "Collections in this community" with a link to "Bayboro Fiction Contest". On the right side of the page, there are several sidebar sections: "Search DSpace" with a search box and radio buttons for "Search DSpace" and "This Collection"; "Browse" with a list of categories like "All of DSpace", "Communities & Collections", "By Issue Date", "Authors", "Titles", "Subjects", and "By Submit Date"; "My Account" with links for "Login" and "Register"; and "Statistics" with a link for "View Statistics".

If you are interested in supporting this effort or if you have questions, please contact the Digital Collections Team at digcol@nelson.usf.edu or Dean of Library Carol Hixson (hixson@usfsp.edu or 873-4400)

Open Access - by Tina Neville, Head of Public Services



October 24-30 was Open Access Week, a celebration of open access to research and scholarship around the world. It has many definitions but most simply open-access (OA) literature is digital, online, free of charge, and free of most copyright and licensing restrictions. OA removes *price barriers* (subscriptions, licensing fees, pay-per-view fees) and *permission barriers* (most copyright and licensing restrictions).

Libraries became involved in the call for open access to research as the cost of journals has outpaced inflation by 200%. At universities, faculty write articles for free, other faculty do blind reviews of the articles for free, and the publishers sell that work back to university libraries at prices that libraries are increasingly unable to afford.

Open Access is supported by many groups around the world, including the Alliance for Taxpayer Access (ATA) in the United States. ATA includes patients, doctors and researchers as well as educational institutions and publishers, to support barrier-free access to taxpayer-funded research. According to the ATA website (<http://www.taxpayeraccess.org/about/index.shtml>) the Alliance for Taxpayer Access is committed to the following four general principles:

1. American taxpayers are entitled to open access on the Internet to the peer-reviewed scientific articles on research funded by the U.S. Government.
2. Widespread access to the information contained in these articles is an essential, inseparable component of our nation's investment in science.
3. This and other scientific information should be shared in cost-effective ways that take advantage of the Internet, stimulate further discovery and innovation, and advance the translation of this knowledge into public benefits.
4. Enhanced access to and expanded sharing of information will lead to usage by millions of scientists, professionals, and individuals, and will deliver an accelerated return on the taxpayers' investment.

The USFSP Digital Archive <http://dspace.nelson.usf.edu> is an open access archive.

In celebration of Open Access Week, the Library mounted electronic and physical exhibits about Open Access and its significance to faculty and students. We also hosted a reception for faculty to provide them more information and to give them tools for retaining control of their copyright when they publish. To learn more about the issues or the Nelson Poynter Memorial Library's event, view one of the electronic presentations here: <http://dspace.nelson.usf.edu/xmlui/handle/10806/3300>

Space, the Next Frontier – by Tina Neville, Head of Public Services

As a direct result of the Library's strategic planning discussions, Dean Hixson established a Space Allocation Committee, chaired by the Library's Head of Public Services, Tina Neville. A three-story building on beautiful Bayboro Harbor, the 81,000 square foot Nelson Poynter Memorial Library is an ADA-compliant facility that provides an inviting place for research or study, with a variety of individual and group study and meeting spaces. Opened in 1996 to serve a projected student population of 10,000, the building was planned for easy adaptability as technological requirements evolved. It has stood up well through the years but it is starting to show its age and campus needs are evolving.



Because there are so many space-related issues facing the library, the Dean wrote a mandate for 2011 to focus the committee's efforts for the year. The first floor of the library is prime space for library services and is also seen as a desirable space for university and community events. Library staff and faculty have initiated several incremental changes over the past few years to make the space more inviting and effective. Many university events have taken place in the Library's atrium or Poynter's Corner and requests to host exhibits or events for non-university groups are also increasing.

Questions have been raised about the need to maintain the extensive reference collection on the first floor; whether or not to introduce more computers; and changes that may be needed relating to security. The Dean charged the group to review the use of space on the first floor of the library, including furnishings, service desks, collections, and more.

Several changes were made this year, including merging Reference and Circulation into one service point; initiating a self-checkout option; weeding the print journal and reference collections; and removing some shelving to free up more floor space. In October the Committee conducted several focus group sessions with students in which thirty-five USFSP students shared their vision for an ideal study space. Although we may not be able to install the water slide (!!) or the fire pole (!!), many great ideas came out of the process. Several requests in common were a desire for more food options and for additional quiet and group study spaces.



The library staff will be considering this input as we formulate a redesign of the library's first floor. Additional focus groups will be coming up next semester. New furnishings are being considered and the Committee has recommended hiring an external consultant to provide guidance and assistance as we move forward to keep the fifteen year old facility fresh and vibrant.

Website Redesign – by Deborah Henry, Public Services Librarian

In November 2010 Dean Hixson charged a Website Review Committee, chaired by Deborah Henry, to inventory the existing library website content and make recommendations for a completely new design. Usability tests were conducted to measure the usefulness of the existing web site and a consultant from the Poynter Institute was engaged to provide a review and make recommendations as well.

The committee began the process by reviewing the latest research on effective web site design, the value of a variety of usability studies, and design standards. Members attended conferences, programs and webinars on web site design and testing. We established contacts with other academic web designers and interviewed them to learn from their experiences and successes. The team spent considerable time reviewing and testing the functionality of recently redesigned academic library web pages to gather the best ideas for consideration for the new Poynter Library web site.

The new website was launched in the fall of 2011 and has received praise from both faculty and students. Library staff member Sharon Austin has worked tirelessly, converting much of the existing content into the new library design template. The new design has increased opportunities to improve and/or expand content such as the implementation of Spanish language pages and web site readability by physically challenged students. The Library site now provides easy access to the new USFSP Digital Archive, distance learning services, and Florida's collaborative help service, Ask-a-Librarian.

We are committed to keeping our library web presence as useful and engaging as any other service we provide. Please check us out at <http://www.nelson.usf.edu/> !

Student Research – by Carol Hixson, Dean of Library

The University of South Florida St. Petersburg is committed to fostering the development of undergraduate and graduate student research. Many students already engage in the research processes by working in laboratories and in the field. This past year the library provided a platform for the publication of the *USFSP Student Research Journal* through the USFSP Digital Archive. The journal currently has three articles written by students and their faculty mentors. It is available online at: <http://dSPACE.nelson.usf.edu/xmlui/handle/10806/10>

The Library has also proposed to the USFSP Research Council the establishment of an annual student research award. Such an award, sponsored and administered by the Nelson Poynter Memorial Library, would recognize students who demonstrate extraordinary skill and creativity in the application of library and information resources to original research and scholarship. Applicants would submit original research to be reviewed and judged by a panel of faculty and administrators for meeting established criteria for research and scholarship. Winners would receive a financial award and would also have their work published in the digital archive. This proposal is currently under discussion by the USFSP Research Council. If you would like to have a positive impact on student scholarship at the University, supporting the Student Research Award would be a great place to start. Contact us to find out how you can help.

Coming up in the next issue: Assessment of Services, Report on the End of an Era and more!!!