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Special Collections and University Archives Annual Report: July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019

Nelson Poynter Memorial Library.

David Shedden

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Special Collections and University Archives
Annual Report

July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019

University of South Florida St. Petersburg

Compiled by David Shedden

2019
Our reimagined special collections reading room created new teaching and archival opportunities during the past year. It has been exciting to share archival collections and welcome students, faculty, and other researchers to the remodeled learning environment.

The room’s large monitor and flexible furniture allows us to make presentations to classes as well as work with patrons individually.

In addition to offering a new space for in-person teaching and research, we have successfully used online applications such as Google Earth and Story Maps to share our local history special collections.

As an example, our new Story Maps project uses the library’s almost 100-year old Earl R. Jacobs III collection of Francis G. Wagner photographs to tell the history of St. Petersburg, Florida. “A Tour of 1920s St. Petersburg with the Photographs of Francis Wagner”

https://arcg.is/0Dv5mH
Weekly Challenger Collection

We are honored to be the home for *The Weekly Challenger* newspaper archive. This collection is an invaluable primary source for journalism and history students and other patrons researching the history of St. Petersburg’s African-American community.

After successfully finishing the scanning and digitalization phase of *The Weekly Challenger* archive project during 2018 we are now focused on using the collection’s materials as a research and teaching resource. As part of that effort, we have created a resource guide to describe the collection and list related local resources. “*Weekly Challenger* Chronology and Research Guide”

http://lib.usfsp.edu/weeklychallenger

One of the guide’s local history links is to the USFSP journalism department’s Neighborhood News Bureau which is a primary user of the collection.

In November 2018 the library hosted a community event marking the conclusion of the formal scanning and digitalization phase of *The Weekly Challenger* project. In addition to creating various library displays and slideshows about the history of the paper, the event included remarks by *Weekly Challenger* publisher Lyn Johnson and others. It was also an opportunity to thank Alexandra Curran for her important work managing the digitalization of the papers.

Florida Humanities Council Audio Archive

One of our new Digital USFSP projects is for the Florida Humanities Council. We already post issues of their *Forum* magazine, but now we will also be archiving their documentary radio series. The first radio program posted on Digital USFSP was Bill Dudley’s 2002 interview with Pulitzer Prize winning civil rights era journalist Eugene Patterson. The show includes excerpts from Patterson’s 1963 *Atlanta Constitution* column, “A Flower for the Graves,” about the
Birmingham church bombing.
“Florida Humanities Council Audio Archive”
https://digital.usfsp.edu/fhc_audio/1/

Additional Highlights

- An archival special collection about St. Petersburg’s Booker Creek and its connection to the history of the African-American community was started in early 2019 with materials from a Florida Studies class taught by Professor Tom Hallock.

- There were various opportunities to share special collections resources in displays and exhibits during the past year. The 1920s Jacobs / Wagner St. Petersburg photograph collection display continues to draw the attention of everyone who visits the special collections reading room.

  A display based around author Jeff Klinkenberg’s recent donation of Florida related books was created in January 2019.

  Historic Bayboro Harbor photographs have remained on display in the reading room during much of 2018 and 2019. Patrons like to point at the old images of the campus and say, “I remember when…”

- The special collections closed stacks area and the off-site storage facility/vault continue to help free up space for the reading room. As we had hoped when they were installed, the five ranges of high-density, compact shelving allow for better access and storage of unique collections. In 2018 a five-drawer flat cabinet case and additional wall mounted artwork mesh display racks were installed.

- In December we wrote a short biography about former St. Petersburg Times owner Nelson
Poynter and his early support for USFSP and the library. The biography was distributed as a handout during a January 2019 library advancement reception.

- The Digital USFSP Crow’s Nest student newspaper archive, one of special collection’s most valuable records of USFSP history, is added to on a regular basis. The Crow’s Nest has chronicled the history of the USFSP campus for almost 50 years.

- USF library science student Meagan Magee began working on a bibliography of the illustrated books from the John C. Briggs Collection of Ichthyology and Natural History. Under the direction of Interim Associate Dean, Kaya van Beynen, Meagan is also creating a #ColorOurCollections coloring book using illustrations from the Briggs collection.

- During the summer and fall of 2018 we learned of two great community service opportunities related to special collections. The first project, at the St. Petersburg Museum of History, helped digitize an important local video oral history program called “Founding Families.”

The second project was for a local initiative celebrating the connection between the musician Ray Charles and the City of St. Petersburg. Our research work, which primarily consisted of searching old St. Petersburg Times microfilm, helped a local group of musicians and historians lay the foundation for a 2019 city of St. Petersburg proclamation honoring Ray Charles and his song called “St. Pete Florida Blues.”

- A slideshow of historic photographs was prepared about African-American tennis pioneer and civil rights advocate, Arthur Ashe, for an October 2018 library talk and book signing by Dr. Raymond Arsenault for his new book, Arthur Ashe: A Life.

- Former Tampa Bay Times writer Jeff Klinkenberg donated his collection of Florida books to the special collections reading room. The Klinkenberg Book Collection includes an impressive variety of fiction and non-fiction books that capture the history and culture of

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Florida. The collection not only includes some of the Sunshine State’s most beloved and classic books, but also lesser-known works that remind us what a unique and special place Florida is.

- The online “Florida Newspaper Chronology” was used by the *Tampa Bay Times* Newspaper in Education program and others to research the history of Florida and its newspapers. Our hope is that this ongoing project will help students use historic Florida newspapers as primary sources. “Florida Newspaper Chronology” http://bit.ly/2LGkWf7

- **Research Questions/Consultations and Class Sessions**
  (July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student &amp; Faculty Liaison Research Questions / Consultations</th>
<th>44</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of Participants in Class Sessions</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community &amp; Other Patron Research Questions / Consultations</td>
<td>41</td>
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- We continue to find a growing interest in our online special collection resources. Following are some statistics about *The Weekly Challenger* digital collection and Digital USFSP.

The “*Weekly Challenger Chronology and Research Guide*” was viewed 1426 times between July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019.

**DIGITAL USFSP ARCHIVE**

*The Weekly Challenger Collection*

Download Statistics (July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COUNTRIES</th>
<th>INSTITUTIONS</th>
<th>DOWNLOADS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>97</td>
<td>220</td>
<td>3,448</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Materials from *The Weekly Challenger* collection within the Digital USFSP archive have been downloaded from around the world.

**Countries**
97 countries downloaded *Weekly Challenger* newspapers from the digital archive. The United States holds the most downloads.

**Institutions**
220 institutions downloaded newspapers from *The Weekly Challenger* digital archive. 72% of institutions were from education, 22% were commercial, 3% were government, 1% were organizations.

**Referrers**
(Search engines or other websites that referred a searcher to Digital USFSP.)
Google is our main referrer source. The Digital USFSP search engine and Google Scholar are second and third.

**Total number of downloads**
3,448 *Weekly Challenger* items were downloaded from the digital archive.

**Works that were downloaded the most**
Materials from the Digital USFSP archive have been downloaded from around the world.

Countries
178 countries downloaded materials from Digital USFSP. The United States holds the most downloads, with China second and the United Kingdom third.

Institutions
2,462 institutions downloaded materials from the digital archive. 71% of institutions were from education, 21% were commercial, 4% were government, and 2% were organizations.

Referrers
(Search engines or other websites that referred a searcher to the digital archive.)
Google is our main referrer source. Google Scholar and the Digital USFSP search engine are second and third.
Total number of downloads
33,517 items were downloaded from Digital USFSP.

Works that were downloaded the most
The most downloaded item was the article “The effects of emotional intelligence, age, work experience, and academic performance” with 895 downloads.