Libraries are the heart of the university. The very best libraries are active partners in the academic enterprise. It is by design that USF’s main library houses world-class research collections that contribute to USF scholars’ efforts to address the urgent issues of our time. The groundbreaking karst science collection centralizes worldwide geologic research important to environmental sustainability. The USF Libraries Holocaust & Genocide Studies Center’s collections and public programming aim to prevent future genocide by examining how past genocides, such as the Holocaust, occurred. And this initiative is growing: I’m proud to announce that the Florida Holocaust Museum library is now a USF-affiliated library.

But that’s not all. The USF Libraries also have made improvements in serving our undergraduate students. The successful Learning Commons study center will soon have a presence online to serve off-campus learners. Innovative efforts to foster student success have led to the creation of the Learning Commons Online, which delivers reference and tutoring services off campus as well as to those within the USF Tampa Library. Funds have been allocated this year for the renovation of study areas our students depend on, providing updated furnishings to support group collaboration and popular technology.

Best of all, the Libraries have made great strides in research collections and academic services despite continuing state budget constraints. Under the stewardship of Dean Garrison, our Libraries have learned to truly work smarter.

JUDY GENSHAFT
President, University of South Florida
The library is the heart of any great institution of higher learning, and at the University of South Florida this is certainly no exception. The USF Libraries provide an intellectual home for students, faculty and researchers from all disciplines as they seek new knowledge and discovery. USF’s many impressive accomplishments, in the classroom, laboratory, studio and the broader community, would not have been possible without the excellent leadership and high quality services provided by the USF Libraries. Achieving the ambitious goals set forth in the University’s strategic plan will require the continuing hard work of our library professionals as USF maintains focus on its strategic priorities of community engagement; global literacy and impact; integrated, interdisciplinary inquiry; research and innovation; and student success.

The USF Libraries support the instructional and research needs of nearly 2,800 faculty members and more than 47,000 students – a daunting task that brings with it high expectations, something our talented library professionals meet and exceed daily. USF’s Libraries are not just a repository of information, but rather represent a source for research and instructional support for faculty and students alike.

I maintain that the quality of an institution’s graduates is the best measure of a university’s quality, and the USF Libraries play a vital role in USF’s commitment to student success. From transforming the first floor of the Tampa Library into a student Learning Commons, housing Tutoring and Learning Services, expanding research assistance to faculty and students alike, supporting students in online learning, and creating new spaces for individual and group study sessions, the USF Libraries have embraced the vision of a student- and faculty-centered university community.

These and many other new initiatives underway at the USF Libraries are positioning us well for attaining membership in the Association of Research Libraries, a critical step toward USF’s vision of becoming eligible for inclusion in the Association of American Universities. The USF Libraries have concluded a busy year, and I am confident they will continue on their upward trajectory in support of USF’s bold vision of becoming a national and global leader in education and research.

RALPH C. WILCOX
Executive Vice President & Provost, University of South Florida
As I begin my third year here, the USF Libraries continue to make great strides toward our ambitious goals. We have worked with such intensity, I can hardly believe two years have passed. And the process of transforming our organization continues apace, in spite of lingering state budget woes.

The USF Libraries have built on the accomplishments of 2008 while leading several new initiatives. The establishment of a University-wide Digital Commons has been an important first step toward developing an institutional repository for USF’s intellectual productivity. We redesigned and modernized our website, taking advantage of no-cost and low-cost cloud computing tools. Digital holdings in our karst science collection were migrated to a new platform, allowing our database to become contiguous with the National Science Digital Library, a project of the National Science Foundation. In late 2009, Special Collections Assistant Librarian Andrew Hughes published a book chronicling the 100-year history of Ybor City’s famous Columbia Restaurant.

We have strengthened our partnerships campus-wide, and formed new connections. The Libraries now have a seat on the USF Faculty Senate Graduate Council, in effect receiving advance notice of new programs of study. Anticipating the research needs of USF’s graduate scholars allows us to build collections to support their work. In 2010, we will work to establish a virtual library for the Dr. Kiran C. Patel Center for Global Solutions, currently under construction. The USF Libraries Holocaust & Genocide Studies Center has been working in close collaboration with communication professor Carolyn Ellis and her graduate students to document the life experiences of Holocaust survivors living in the Tampa Bay area.

The USF Libraries leadership team continues to evolve as well. A seasoned veteran of academic libraries worldwide, Tom Cetwinski joined us in October as director of administrative services. In December, former Development Director Kimberly Constantine left the Libraries to take a position with USF Health.

During heavy rains in May, the USF Tampa Library building was the victim of severe water intrusion and flooding on the first and second floors. Through swift action by our staff, most affected materials were unharmed, though it took considerably longer to dehydrate and repair the surrounding areas. Happier news for our building came this fall, when Provost Wilcox allocated state Public Education Capital Outlay funds designated for student success to the renovation of heavily-used study areas within the library. And, as a result of conversations with representatives from student government, the USF Tampa Library will begin to stay open 24 hours, five days a week during the Spring and Fall semesters, to accommodate the diverse schedules of all USF students.

I expect 2010 to be an especially productive year for the Libraries. The epic USF: Unstoppable capital campaign kicked off last fall with a gala VIP donor event in the brand new USF Marshall Student Center, and holds nearly unlimited promise for us as we seek to grow our research collections and improve the facilities that our students and faculty rely on. If you haven’t been in to visit us lately, please stop by when you’re in the neighborhood. I look forward to seeing you!

Sincerely,
WILLIAM A. GARRISON
Dean, University of South Florida Libraries
The USF Libraries Holocaust & Genocide Studies Center (HGSC) had a richly productive first year of operation, with a busy schedule of programming and the formation of several partnerships. The Center’s founding was highlighted by television and radio interviews with Dean William A. Garrison and Dr. Mark I. Greenberg on WUSF’s University Beat program, which showcases the best and brightest research taking place at the University.

USF and the Florida Holocaust Museum (FHM) have inked an official affiliation agreement, paving the way for a number of collaborations. Chief among these is that the Museum’s library will become an affiliate of the USF library system, sharing its collections and benefiting from the USF Tampa Library’s cataloging expertise. Special Collections’ Oral History Program staff are also working to transcribe and make available a host of existing interviews conducted by the Museum with local Holocaust survivors.

In a related oral history project, graduate students in Professor Carolyn Ellis’s Communicating Grief, Loss, and Illness class interviewed Holocaust survivors currently living in the Tampa Bay area, who were introduced to them by the Florida Holocaust Museum. The USF Libraries Holocaust & Genocide Studies Center then transcribed and cataloged these deeply personal stories. The interviews are being added to the USF Libraries website and can be accessed via the HGSC and Oral History Program portions of the site.

The inaugural lecture series discussed genocides spanning three continents and six decades. In January, human rights advocate Rebecca Tinsley spoke about her experiences on the ground with refugees in Darfur, and her work in the United States and Great Britain on their behalf. The event, held in conjunction with a USF Libraries exhibition showcasing Darfuri refugee children’s drawings, drew a record crowd. The spring series also included a lecture by University of Chicago professor Michael Sells on Bosnia, a discussion of human rights during decolonization in Kenya and Algeria by scholar Fabian Klose, Ben Madley’s examination of the past treatment of Native Americans, and a discussion of President Obama’s foreign policy event featuring USF’s own Edward Kissi.

In addition to the acquisition of historic photographs, artifacts, and rare books for the Holocaust & Genocide Studies Center’s collection, author Michael Hirsh has donated a gift of 150 testimonies by World War II concentration camp liberators used in the development of his book The Liberators: America’s Witnesses to the Holocaust. Manuscript material related to the book will also be donated.

In the fall of 2009, USF Social Studies Education Professor Michael Berson and his students worked with the Libraries’ Dr. Mark I. Greenberg to create digital video stories in response to a project by students of Hadassah College professor Moshe Caine. In spring 2010, students in Israel and Tampa will share their work and reactions with each other over the Internet in order to better understand the complexities and commonalities in Israeli and American culture. In the future, the Center hopes to foster international learning exchanges.

University Beat segments, full video of HGSC lectures, and more can be found on the USF Libraries Holocaust & Genocide Studies Center’s website at: http://genocide.lib.usf.edu
Karst

The quest to sustain the natural environment that makes life possible, the need to understand our planet’s climate record, and the epic tale of prior civilizations thriving or perishing among these changing conditions are what karst researchers study. Scientists at USF and worldwide are working to protect global sustainability and future drinking water sources. The USF Libraries are solving the information-sharing needs of far-flung researchers with the Karst Information Portal.

Currently offering over 800 digital objects, the karst collection continues to grow. In 2009, the Libraries completed agreements with four more journals, retrospectively digitizing all back issues of Geo² and NSS News, and hosting the Proceedings of the International Symposium on Volcano Speleology, and Helictite: Journal of Australasian Speleology Research. In total, the Karst Information Portal – the virtual doorway through which the karst collection is reached – now provides access to 12 different journals, representing a 30% increase in the collection hosted by the USF Libraries. Additionally, the Libraries began digitization of the National Cave and Karst Research Institute’s library, an authoritative collection which will constitute a significant addition to the array of karst references currently available through the Portal.

In 2009, the USF Libraries completed the initial migration of the Karst Information Portal to a new format. This move will allow the Portal to become part of the National Science Foundation-funded National Science Digital Library (NSDL). As a result, the Karst Information Portal now forms part of a much larger scientific library on the web. The Libraries have also completed the framework for the Bibliography of Speleothem Research, in collaboration with Scripps College professor Don McFarlane. This resource will form another component of the NSDL. On a larger scale, the USF Libraries entered into negotiations to merge the Karst Information Portal with endangered annual cave literature review Bulletin Bibliographique Spéléologique, a publication of the Union Internationale de Spéléologie (UIS).

Several database projects will contribute to the karst collection offerings. A coastal cave survey database is presently in discussion, reflecting a partnership with researcher John Mylroie (Mississippi State University) and caver Mike Lace. The Libraries’ internal team recently completed the framework for the browser-based Cave Minerals of the World database, in collaboration with the Emil Racoviță Institute of Speleology (Romania) and the UIS’s Cave Minerals Commission. Ultimately, this database will include all 287 cave minerals known to exist on earth.

Karst Information Portal
http://www.karstportal.org/

Cave Minerals of the World
http://www.lib.usf.edu/caveminerals/ca

Bibliography of Speleothem Research
http://www.lib.usf.edu/speleothem/
Special Collections

In 2009 award-winning British science fiction author Brian Aldiss made a significant donation to the USF Tampa Library’s growing Science Fiction collection. He contributed several additional titles to our already existing Aldiss holdings, including four autobiographical typescripts. At the 2009 Annual Science Fiction Symposium, author Mike Resnick drew a large crowd to the Tampa campus library’s Grace Allen Room. In addition to discussing writing techniques and answering questions from aspiring authors, he read his short story, Article of Faith.

Oral History

2009 saw the launch of the Otis R. Anthony African Americans in Florida Oral History Project, with seventy-eight interviews available online at the new Program website. The Oral History Program provides access to over 500 interviews on a wide variety of topics, including Ybor City, Tampa arts and culture, Florida foodways, civil rights, Holocaust & genocide studies, and economic development and sustainability. Audio and transcripts are available via the Internet.

USF Libraries Oral History Program
http://ohp.lib.usf.edu

Florida Studies

The Florida Studies Center, in partnership with Claywell Elementary School and the Tampa Bay History Center, continued to develop its project Reading into Florida’s Past, designed to promote Florida Studies in the fourth-grade curriculum. In 2009 Florida Studies Center Director Dr. Mark I. Greenberg and Claywell Elementary School media specialist Deborah Kline created and tested an innovative approach to experiential learning. In preparation for a planned visit to St. Augustine, students researched and wrote a walking tour that focused on Native American, Spanish, colonial Florida, religious, and military history. While in St. Augustine, students served as their own tour guides, and educated each other about Florida’s rich heritage. 2010 will see the release of a web site devoted to the project with tools for teachers statewide to replicate the Claywell model.

Sacred Leaves

Graduate Symposium, “Comparative Mysticism of the Middle Ages: 1000-1600 CE,” was held on February 19-20. Fifteen scholars from as far away as Israel, the Netherlands, and France presented their research, and Dr. Michael Sells, the John Henry Barrows Professor at the University of Chicago, gave the keynote address. The yearly event draws emerging scholars from around the world to USF each winter to present papers on a specified topic or theme related to medieval manuscripts and early printed books.

The USF Libraries’ Third Annual Sacred Leaves Graduate Symposium, “Comparative Mysticism of the Middle Ages: 1000-1600 CE,” was held on February 19-20. Fifteen scholars from as far away as Israel, the Netherlands, and France presented their research, and Dr. Michael Sells, the John Henry Barrows Professor at the University of Chicago, gave the keynote address. The yearly event draws emerging scholars from around the world to USF each winter to present papers on a specified topic or theme related to medieval manuscripts and early printed books.

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Academic Services

For the libraries’ Academic Services division, 2009 was a year of organizational streamlining and consolidation. We improved and expanded services we provide students and faculty, especially in the area of document delivery. Our Pronto service, which provides faculty with delivery of books and articles, was integrated with Inter-Library Loan (ILL) service to increase turnaround speed and staff utilization. The USF Tampa Library media desk closed in December as part of the reconfiguration of the circulation area. Staff members were transferred to InterLibrary Loan to begin a night shift that will improve processing of requests.

USF Libraries joined RAPID-ILL, a unique resource-sharing consortium designed to speed processing and delivery of article requests to fewer than 24 hours. In the three months since joining the consortium, average processing of article requests decreased from 1.5 days to .6 days. RAPID processing is invisible to the patron, but behind the scenes ILL staff members work to fulfill requests for articles in short order. In addition, the library’s Purchase On Demand program has expanded to allow ILL staff to make strategic purchases when necessary, so that needed materials are identified quickly for purchase and become part of the library’s collections.

Last year the USF Tampa Library joined with Student Learning Services to transform the Information Commons into a Learning Commons within the 1st and 2nd floors of the library building. Students can now access centrally-located learning support services, such as tutoring and writing assistance, year-round. This year the Learning Commons will expand to an online environment. In June 2009 Tutoring and Learning Services and the USF Tampa Library received a grant for $348,000 to develop learning support services for an online environment that students will be able to access 24 hours a day, seven days a week (24/7). The grant was made available as a result of USF’s Student Technology Fees. The Learning Commons Online will be launched in 2010 and provide students with online access to writing assistance and tutoring in other course areas, web-based tutorials for software applications, online librarian assistance, and other learning services.

USF reference librarians continue to make library instruction and reference services available to students and faculty 24/7 through the use of blogs, wikis, and online chat services. This year, librarians used tools such as Captivate, Elluminate, Jing, and Camtasia to create online tutorials so that patrons can access important how-to instructions for locating and retrieving resources. In addition, a number of librarians, led by Susan Ariew, used video to capture their information literacy sessions and site them within online course modules.

At the end of 2009, the USF Tampa Library launched a new website, making innovative use of cloud computing resources including an online tool known as LibGuides. Most often used by institutions as web templates for specific subject guides, LibGuides were repurposed by USF librarians to offer a full complement website content. The streamlined new website design and structure promises to be an effective interface for efficiently introducing users to the right resource, tool, or service.
The USF Libraries welcomed Tom Cetwinski as their new Director of Administrative Services in October of 2009. Tom will oversee the library budget, coordinate facilities planning and management, and perform human resources administrative duties. He will also design and implement a staff development program, serve as the administration point person for faculty governance, facilitate the promotion process, and contribute to grant proposal development and strategic planning.

Tom comes to USF with administrative experience at the Ohio State University, University of Georgia, University of Florida, and the University of Illinois at Chicago. While at Ohio State University, Tom was also responsible for the development of an institutional repository for digital assets - collecting, preserving, indexing, and making accessible the intellectual output of the university.

Most recently, Tom consulted on the planning and implementation of a library for the King Abdullah University of Science and Technology in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. These projects were similar to those in Jubail, Saudi Arabia and Cairo, Egypt where he lived for a number of years. Tom also recently served on a 14-member International Advisory Committee on the History of Arabic and Islamic Study to advise the Library of Congress’s World Digital Library.

Early in his career, Tom held several positions at Chicago’s Newberry Library and served as a library director at Barat College, a liberal arts college in the Chicago area. He received his master of arts degree in library science from Dominican University in River Forest, IL.

In November, the staff of the USF Tampa Library gathered to bid farewell to Beatrice Walker, who retired after working in the Library’s Cataloging and Technical Services department for 40 years. Beatrice began work in 1969 as a card catalog file clerk and typist when the original USF Library was housed in the Student Services building; during her career, she advanced to the position of library specialist copy cataloger.

A committed advocate for the American Heart Association’s Heart Walk, Beatrice participated in the annual event while enthusiastically recruiting support from library colleagues. She was also actively involved in USF’s Diversity Committee.

Beatrice plans to put her youthful energy to work cooking for her grandchildren during her retirement.

With mixed emotions we say goodbye to Kimberly Constantine, the Library’s Director of Development for the past eight and a half years. In December, Kimberly accepted a position as Senior Director of Development for USF Health. As part of the USF Health Development and Alumni Relations team, she will be working with the Colleges of Medicine, Nursing, Public Health, Schools of Pharmacy and Physical Therapy, and the Byrd Alzheimer’s Research Institute.
Selected Faculty & Staff Activities

Publications


Todd Chavez published “Why We Do It – the University of South Florida Tampa Library’s Commitment to Open-Access Publishing” in Studia Universitatis Babes-Bolyai, Geologia.

Donald McFarlane and Todd A. Chavez published “Bibliography of Speleothem Research,” a database hosted by the University of South Florida Libraries.

Andrew Huse’s book, The Columbia Restaurant: Celebrating a century of history, culture, and cuisine was published by the University Press of Florida.

Audrey Powers, Cheryl McCoy, Gina Clifford, and Sue Polanka published “Using Blog Technology to Get Their Attention” in the 2009 Charleston Conference Proceedings.

Presentations

Susan Ariew and Ilene Frank presented “Best Practices in Information Literacy,” as a workshop for the Northeast Florida Library Information Network (NEFLIN) in Gainesville, FL; as a workshop for the Tampa Bay Library Consortium (TBLC); and as a workshop for the University of Puerto Rico, Rios Piedras, in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Susan Ariew, Cheryl McCoy, Matt Torrence, Gloria Colvin, and Marcia Goren presented “Beyond the Basics—Casting a Net to Provide Customized Research Services for Faculty and Students,” in Seattle, Washington, at the ACRL 14th National Conference.


Rick Anderson, Gloria Guzi, and Carol Ann Borchert presented “Rethinking Staff Resources in the E-Serials Environment” at the American Library Association Annual Conference in Chicago, Illinois.


Mark Greenberg presented “Jewish Roots in Southern Soil” at the Historic Natchez Conference in Natchez, Mississippi.


Catherine Lavallée-Welch presented “Twitter the Library Way” at the Fall Workshop and Awards Luncheon of the Florida and Caribbean Chapter of the Special Libraries Association, in Lakeland, Florida.

Kristen Morda, Randy Polo, Rose Bland, Danny O’Neal, and Beverly Shattuck presented a poster, “Connecting With Colleagues: The Creation of a Journal Club,” at the Southern Chapter meeting of the Medical Library Association, in Memphis, Tennessee.

Awards & Appointments

Rose Bland received a 2009 Leadership Scholarship from the Association of Academic Health Sciences Libraries (AAHSL).

Carol Ann Borchert was elected to the position of secretary for the North American Serials Interest Group executive board for a three-year term.

William A. Garrison was named as one of 75 Notable Alumni by the Graduate School of Library & Information Science of Dominican University, on their 75th anniversary.

Catherine Lavallée-Welch was appointed chair of the Information Technology Division of the Special Libraries Association (SLA).

Kristen Morda, Randy Polo, Rose Bland, Danny O’Neal, and Beverly Shattuck won a 3rd place research award for their poster presentation, “The State of Reference Services: A Look at the Big Picture” at the Southern Chapter meeting of the Medical Library Association, in Memphis, Tennessee.

Danny O’Neal received a training award of $600 from the National Network of Libraries of Medicine (NNLM).

Tomaro Taylor was appointed to the Joint Committee on Archives, Libraries and Museums, as a representative of the Society of American Archivists; and the Academy of Certified Archivists’ Exam Development Committee.
The USF Libraries would like to thank our Advancement Board members: Cynthia Bailey, Suzette Berkman, The Honorable Betty Castor, Ruth Coleman, Mary Lou Harkness, Charles Mahan, Paul Pizzo, The Honorable E.J. Salcines, W. Reece Smith, Jr., and Walter Smith.

To make a contribution to the USF Libraries, please contact the Office of Development at 4202 E. Fowler Avenue LIB 122, Tampa, FL 33620-5400 or (813) 974-1654.

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