The University of South Florida’s commitment to understanding and improving global sustainability continues to deepen system wide. Nowhere is this ethic exemplified quite like it is in our libraries, which support numerous departments and programs with cutting edge web-based services and online access to research. For example, the USF Libraries are working with faculty in geology, marine science, and education on a National Science Foundation-funded grant to expand general understanding of the effects of climate change on sea levels in the Florida-Caribbean area.

The Coastal Area Climate Change Education (CACCE) Partnership is an effort to organize a wide range of partners and stakeholders in the coastal regions of the southeastern United States and the Caribbean to educate current K-12 and college students, and the broader public, about the impacts of global climate change.

This year, the Libraries acquired the archives of the historic Bay Study Group, which document the essential health of Tampa Bay and related waterways through aerial photography and an enormous amount of scientific data gathered locally, over the past 30-plus years.

It’s important to note that the Libraries were innovative early supporters of global sustainable environments, with long-established projects related to karst and cave sciences. Now, they have sharpened their focus on issues worldwide that relate to Florida’s environmental well-being, with the development of the Gulf Oil Spill Information Center (GOSIC) – an important repository for original research data by scientists working to understand the impact the 2010 Gulf oil spill will have on Florida’s environment and economy.

Not only has the library created these exceptional and innovative information resources, it has become a hub for student success initiatives on the USF Tampa Campus. Renovating one of the busiest places on campus was no small feat, but Dean Garrison and the library leadership have succeeded in transforming this 35 year-old building into a bright, inviting study center, with improved access to quiet and group study facilities, tutoring, and computing resources, many which are open 24 hours a day, five days a week. I invite you to come see all the USF System Libraries have done lately!

JUDY GENSHAFT
President, University of South Florida System
Consistent with our commitment to student success, our Library patrons will recognize that the USF Tampa Library has undergone a much needed facelift over the past year, one intended to provide a more comfortable setting for individual and group learning. As part of these renovations, we have also improved access for persons with disabilities, ensuring a positive experience for all visitors. I invite you to come pay us a visit.

Beyond that, USF continues to expand academic services for students who need supplementary support to optimize their success in the classroom. Housed within the USF Tampa Library, the Learning Commons has launched Learning Commons Online, a web-based tutoring program that can be accessed by students – any time, any place. Through this new service, our students can sign up for online tutorials in math, science, and writing through the use of innovative teaching tools. Because I continue to believe that our graduates represent the best measure of our university’s quality, the USF Libraries must continue to play a vital role in the academic success of our students.

The USF Libraries have concluded another busy and successful year, and I am confident they will maintain their upward trajectory in support of USF’s bold vision of becoming a global leader in higher education. Despite the challenging economy, we will continue to invest in our libraries and remain steadfast in pursuing our goal of attaining membership in the Association of Research Libraries.

RALPH C. WILCOX
Provost & Executive Vice President,
University of South Florida
Have you seen our library lately? Thanks to funds allocated by Provost Wilcox, popular student study areas have been given a significant facelift, with new paint and carpeting, well-lit individual and collaborative study areas, and additional electrical outlets for students to plug into. Comfortable, easily rearranged seating and small tables have been added to our elevator lobbies, where marathon study sessions take place daily. A bright new Marmoleum surface has been installed on our first floor to welcome all visitors (as a bonus, it’s not only durable, but an environmentally sustainable material).

These renovations are important, not merely for the aesthetic pleasure of our students, but for a deeper support of good study habits. When the library is easy to use – lighting is sufficient, seating is comfortable, and recharging opportunities plentiful – undergrads and graduate students alike readily spend more time on academics. We’ve worked hard over the past year to make access to library resources fast, easy, and service-oriented via our website, and it is a pleasure to begin to make our building as easy to use as our online resources are. In addition to staying open 24 hours a day, from noon Sunday to 6 P.M. Friday, we doubled the number of computers available in the first-floor Learning Commons, and removed 100,000 volumes of printed journals in order to increase dedicated study space. Our website has added a convenient new consortial chat service, allowing us to greatly expand the hours during which patrons can get help online. Our mobile website allows users to access myriad library services from their phones, and will launch in full in early 2011. Our students demand anywhere, anytime, any-device access, and that is what we aim to give them.

Or perhaps you have visited our major new research hub, the Gulf Oil Spill Information Center (GOSIC)? This new online resource, spearheaded by library Director of Academic Resources Todd Chavez, began as a one-stop information source for news and USF research on the 2010 spill as it was happening. It has since grown to occupy a unique niche as a repository for original research from the Florida Institute of Oceanography, whose 20 member institutions include Florida’s research universities and colleges, state agencies, and the Smithsonian Institution’s South Florida Marine Station; as well as to partner with other coastal institutions. We have big plans for expansion of this resource in the coming years. If you haven’t seen it yet, head over to http://oilspill.lib.usf.edu

We are working to improve information access on a larger scale, too. Board appointments to the Tampa Bay History Center and Tampa Bay Library Consortium, as well as the Research Libraries Advisory Group to the statewide Task Force on the Future of Academic Libraries in Florida, and USF’s own Student Success Task Force ensure that we continue to offer the USF community and researchers everywhere state of the art access to information.

Last but not least, I would like to welcome our new development officer to the USF Libraries. Merrell Dickey has a long history of close involvement with and support for the University, as an alumnus and most recently, as director of geographic outreach and corporate relations for the Alumni Association. His creativity and vision are sure to serve us well as we grow and advance.

WILLIAM A. GARRISON
Dean, University of South Florida Libraries
Now entering its third year, the USF Libraries Holocaust & Genocide Studies Center (HGSC) continues to build connections to communities both local and worldwide, with a variety of outreach programs and collaborative partnerships. In October, the Center convened Rediscovering Armenia, a three-day, three-venue symposium examining lesser known elements of Armenian history and culture, with an emphasis on the historical context of the Armenian Genocide (1915-1918). The Armenian Genocide is a growing area of emphasis within the Holocaust & Genocide Studies Center's collections.

The symposium featured Richard G. Hovannisian, preeminent scholar of Armenian history at UCLA, as well as USF Professor Manoug Manougian and Tampa Bay Armenian community leader Chris Sassouni. Dr. Hovannisian also spoke to the congregation and guests at Jewish synagogue Kol Ami, drawing parallels between shared Armenian and Jewish experiences, and at St. Hagop Armenian Church, where his presentation on Armenian heritage included visual accompaniment.

Inspired by the Darfuri refugee children’s drawings that comprised the 2008 USF Libraries Holocaust & Genocide Studies Center exhibition Lost Voices of Darfur and became a part of the HGSC’s collections, USF College of The Arts faculty Jeanne Travers and Fanni Green conceived and directed an original performance entitled What the Heart Remembers: The Women and Children of Darfur.

Following each November performance, HGSC partners such as human rights advocate Rebecca Tinsley and HGSC librarian Musa Olaka led audience- and cast-driven conversations. Says Green of the performances, “Think of the vocal performers as a chorus of witnesses who give voice to the memory of this crime; think of the dancers as unraveling the heart of the matter; think of the production as a tribute of praise for the resilience and hope born on the faces of the women and children of Darfur.”

Working from the USF Libraries Holocaust & Genocide Studies Center’s oral histories, personal photos, and memoirs of Holocaust survivor Alicia Appleman-Jurman, secondary education doctoral student Tara Payor will create a web-based learning environment for teachers, students, and the general public. While Ms. Appleman-Jurman’s book, ALICIA: My Story tells the remarkable tale of her courageous survival during World War II, this forthcoming website will explore the rest of her story.

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An English teacher by training, Tara sees an opportunity to engage learners with interactive forums and tools that allow users to share and communicate with one another. Asks Tara, “There was a life before all of this happened to Alicia, and there is a life now, after what she has been through. How did this experience shape her? What did she become?”

Help us change the future. Participate in future HGSC programming and events. Visit the USF Libraries Holocaust & Genocide Studies Center’s website at: http://genocide.lib.usf.edu
Cave researchers at USF and worldwide depend on the work of their colleagues and predecessors to understand the natural systems that nurture our water supply. In the past, this information was scattered worldwide, often in paper form, sometimes in difficult-to-reach locations. The USF Libraries Karst Information Portal (KIP) solves this access problem by providing an online data repository of essential information on the natural systems comprising the world of karst.

In 2010, the KIP made great strides in providing unprecedented access to karst and cave literature. Portal website usage has doubled in the past year. And, in the best proof yet that our resources are increasingly found by researchers far and wide, fully 68% of KIP visits reach us via Google searches.

The USF Libraries’ open-access publication of cave and karst journals continues, offering a desirable alternative to commercial publishing, through the USF Tampa Library’s existing resources. The second issue of the Libraries-published USF Karst Studies Series was released in 2010, produced in conjunction with the Emil Racoviță Institute of Speleology (Romania). This atlas of Romania’s caves will be offered as an openly accessible e-book. Successive issues will complete coverage of Romanian caves.

The Libraries have begun publication of the *International Journal of Speleology* (IJS), the official journal of long-time KIP collaborator Union Internationale de Spéléologie, as an open-access publication, with the Libraries producing future issues in house and providing access to digitized retrospective issues published since the journal’s inception in 1964. Notably, the IJS has an Institute for Scientific Information impact factor, denoting high research relevance within the scientific community.

The USF Libraries have also entered into discussions with representatives of the Edwards Aquifer Authority for the Karst Information Portal to host reports generated by their Aquifer Science Research Program, and to retrospectively digitize older materials. The Edwards Aquifer Authority collaboration is significant, as it is the world’s largest entity organized in order to protect and understand a karst aquifer – one that underlies Texas and surrounding states. Their work is a case study for managing karst aquifers that supply water to arid regions, with implications for the future of the Middle East and similar environments, where fierce competition for natural resources can lead to armed conflict.

Large-scale digitization efforts have resulted in the availability of select issues of *SpeleoDigest*, and all of the *Proceedings of the National Cave and Karst Management Symposia*. Additionally, elements of researcher George Veni’s private library of technical reports have been digitized and made accessible via the Karst Information Portal.

Visit the Karst Information Portal and see what the USF Libraries are doing to support a sustainable global future: http://www.karstportal.org

These encrusted speleothems (stalactites) in Vallgornera Cave on Spain’s Mallorca island were used to reconstruct past and present sea-level fluctuations, giving researchers valuable data about the planet’s climate record. (Photo: Toni Merino)
Special Collections

Bay Study Group

In 2010, the USF Tampa Library received a number of important collections. Among these are the complete archives of the Bay Study Group. Established in 1976, this group of marine and environmental biologists was charged with monitoring water quality in the Tampa Bay estuary. After documented environmental problems in the 1960’s due to an excess of waterborne nutrients, the Bay’s health was expected to improve in response to the City of Tampa’s new advanced wastewater treatment system. In a matter of years, the level of problematic nitrogen was reduced by 90%. The return to health of Hillsborough Bay, Old Tampa Bay, and the larger estuarine system became an internationally-known success story of environmental remediation and rebirth.

Ediciones Vigia

For over a decade, the USF Libraries have collected the limited edition handmade books painstakingly crafted by Cuba’s artist group Ediciones Vigia. With over 100 titles, Special Collections has one of the world’s most extensive Ediciones Vigia collections.

Tampa’s strong historical ties to Cuba and Special Collections’ longstanding relationship with Ediciones Vigia led Special & Digital Collections director Mark I. Greenberg to approach Ediciones Vigia Artistic Director Rolando Estevez and Director Augustina Ponce in a meeting in 2007 in Mexico City with the idea of collaborating on a book. Working with a text crafted by USF historian Paul J. Dosal, along with images from Special Collections and Professor Dosal’s own collection, Estevez designed this exquisite book, which features a handcrafted binding. The book takes readers through writer and Cuban revolutionary José Martí’s time in Ybor City fomenting revolutionary fervor among Cuban expatriates and outlines Tampa’s important role in the Cuban struggle for independence.

Gandy Collection

Renowned Florida photographer Skip Gandy’s extensive archive of photographs and large-format negatives was donated to Special Collections by Gandy and his family in 2010. This historic body of work spans the career of Skip Gandy, who joined his father, Sandy Gandy, in the family photography business in 1969. It includes a wide range of commercial photography and extensive aerial photography throughout Florida, including coastal documentation work done for Tampa’s Bay Study Group.

When the Group ceased operation in 2010, the USF Tampa Library Special Collections Department was a natural choice to house and make available their records. Says Bay Study Group Chief Biologist Roger Johansson, “These archives contain an awful lot of important information about the Bay — information that must be preserved for availability to future scientists and for public access.”
USF Tampa Library News

Gulf Oil Spill Information Center

In response to public and research needs for information on the 2010 Gulf oil spill, the USF Libraries established a central repository for unbiased information. Early this summer, the Gulf Oil Spill Information Center (GOSIC) was created, providing not only one-stop access to both international and USF resources, but also an archive of the rapidly changing official version of events as they evolved in response to shifting popular opinion.

In the second half of 2010, the mission of the GOSIC portal was refined increasingly toward providing a repository for scientific data gathered by USF marine scientists and researchers affiliated with the 20 member institutions and agencies of the Florida Institute of Oceanography (FIO).

After just six months in operation, GOSIC continues to build a significant inventory of published research & grey (less widely-available) literature focused on the issue of the current spill in the Gulf as well as presenting case studies from prior spills that offer lessons to be learned. In addition, the team of librarians behind GOSIC continues to curate an array of published scientific literature in an effort to define what the Gulf region is likely to face over the coming years.

In order to make the full complement of the Center’s Gulf oil spill information resources publicly available, the USF Libraries hope to negotiate arrangements with our information vendors that will allow public access to published information typically requiring institutional credentials or payment of fees.

Technologically speaking, the GOSIC team is building a framework to allow for future collaborations with other institutional partners such as Louisiana State University and the University of California’s California Digital Library. A geospatial architecture is in development to allow searching and access to data via a map interface. It is slated for release in early 2011. The notion of linking published and grey literature to mapped geospatial coordinates is believed to be a new concept, not currently available in any subject area.

Library Development

Merrell Dickey joined the USF Libraries as Director of Development in May 2010, after serving the University for more than five years through its Alumni Association.

In addition to spending time with the Libraries’ benefactors, Merrell is working with management to identify and promote the Libraries’ educational and research initiatives —efforts that make USF a top research university and a destination of choice for students, faculty, and researchers around the world. In interactions with the public, Merrell has observed that the local community is not aware of the true scope of important work the Libraries do. He seeks to change that, and is rallying alumni, friends, and patrons to become committed philanthropists to the USF Libraries. His charge to lead a strategic comprehensive advancement program for the USF Tampa and Florida Mental Health Institute Libraries, with the aim of securing private and corporate gifts and creating positive, sustaining relationships with the Libraries’ constituencies is a mission he “...finds exciting, because the research and learning that the Libraries afford the global community are profoundly transformative and vitally important to our future.”

The USF Libraries resources and services are alive with opportunity; the entire University community thrives because the Library is at its heart,” says Merrell. “Come see for yourself, and be a part of the vision.”

Merrell Dickey

USF Libraries Director of Development
2010 Meant Reorganizing and Reinvigorating All Academic Services Units – Reference/Library Instruction, Interlibrary Loan, and Access Services – with new skills, talent, and leadership.

Our new manager of access services, Dennis Smith, has years of experience in customer service with organizations such as Verizon and the U.S. Navy. Dennis has streamlined the print and media reserve process, circulation operations, and cross-trained staff. Angela Harden, promoted from a staff position to supervisor of all library stacks (over 1.2 million volumes on five floors), uses her experience as a U.S. Army supply sergeant in Korea to keep books in order on shelves, shift collections to new areas, and decrease transit time from a book’s return to its correct shelving. LeEtta Schmidt, promoted this year from staff supervisor to manager of interlibrary loan (ILL) operations, is responsible for an integration of services that will speed up delivery of articles to fewer than 24 hours, as well as the implementation of USF’s NetID as the single login for interlibrary loan accounts. This advance is part of a university-wide movement led by USF IT to allow access to myriad important services through a single sign-on. For USF Tampa Library users, these personnel changes translate to improved desk services from competent and friendly staff, books correctly and neatly shelved, and interlibrary loan requests delivered quickly and efficiently.

Faced with the upcoming retirements of several senior reference librarians, Academic Services sought new talent and expertise from a pool of over 150 candidates, resulting in the selection and hiring of two new library faculty members: Lily Todorinova and Megan Sheffield. Lily received her library master’s degree from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill in May, where she worked as a library research fellow before joining us in August. Among other projects, she will develop an online library instruction program for first year composition students. Megan received her library master’s degree from the University of Maryland in December of 2009, and is also a published scientist with articles in the Journal of Zoology and Experimental Biology. Megan will serve as the librarian for the School of Natural Sciences and Mathematics. We look forward to their contributions and improved collaboration with faculty through their endeavors.

The opportunity provided by Provost Wilcox to renovate selected intensive-use areas of the USF Tampa Library permitted us to reevaluate the location of reference and Writing Center services within the overall Learning Commons environment. After study and consultation with faculty and students, Academic Services librarians and Writing Center staff chose to relocate the Writing Center next to the reference service desk in a new, refurnished area designated for research and writing support services. The flexible new space allows for expansion of services to accommodate the growing need for student writing support. Its proximity to the reference desk allows librarians and Writing Center staff to work together and easily refer students. The thoughtful reconfiguration of the Writing Center, reference, and circulation areas increases communication among all staff to better address student needs, ultimately contributing to student success at USF.

This August, USF Libraries joined with other Florida academic libraries to implement the Tampa Bay Library Consortium’s Ask-A-Librarian web chat service, increasing online library help availability for USF students and faculty and improving response time to reference questions. Online chat requests for reference service increased 300%.

Renovated Learning Commons study areas.

In 2010, the USF Polytechnic Library hired Lisa Zilinski as its business librarian. Lisa was previously a corporate librarian working for PricewaterhouseCoopers and First Marketing Corporation. Her duties include reference, instruction, and collection development services. Lisa received her library master’s degree from Florida State University.
The USF Libraries would like to thank our Advancement Board members: Cynthia Bailey, The Honorable Betty Castor, Ruth Coleman, 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 Director of Development Merrell T. Dickey at (813) 974-1654.

Selected Faculty & Staff Activities

Publications


Jane Duncan and Elizabeth Tucker produced a 10-minute video documenting the work of Nava Mentkow, a Tampa artist who paints portraits of Holocaust survivors for the Florida Holocaust Museum’s Art and Autobiography exhibition.

Ardis Hanson, E. P. Engel, & S. A. Gobes-Ryan published “Power and trust in the virtual workplace: team development as communities-of-practice” in S. D. Long (Ed.) Communication, relationships, and practices in virtual work.

M.A. Becker, B.L. Levin, & Ardis Hanson wrote the introduction to, and Ardis Hanson & B.L. Levin published “Navigating the worlds of information” in M.A. Becker & B. L. Levin (Eds.) A public health perspective of women’s mental health.


Andy Huse published “Cuban Sandwich City” in John T. Edge and Fred W. Sauceman (Eds.) Cornbread Nation 5: The Best of Southern Food Writing.


Barbara A. Wood published “Communications” in the Journal of Academic Librarianship.

Presentations

Melanie Griffin presented “The Digital (Un)Revolution: Mapping the Effect of Digital Texts on Scholarly Approaches to Victorian Sensation Fiction” at Library Research Seminar V in College Park, Maryland, a conference sponsored by the Library Research Roundtable of ALA and IMLS. Melanie was awarded an IMLS-sponsored fellowship to present her research at this conference.

Melanie Griffin presented “The McLoughlin Brothers and the Americanization of Fairy Tales” at the Popular Culture Association Annual Conference in St. Louis, Missouri.

Melanie Griffin and Barbara Lewis presented a poster, “Transforming Special Collections: A (Lib) Guide to Innovation,” at the ALA Annual Conference in Washington, D.C.

Barbara Lewis presented “Coordinating and Marketing Digital Collections” at the Society of Florida Archivists Annual Meeting in Tampa, Florida.

Ardis Hanson & Claudia J. Dold presented a paper, “Rethinking collection development in disaster mental health: an ‘all hazards’ model,” at the annual meeting of the Atmospheric Science Librarians International in Atlanta, Georgia.

Ardis Hanson presented “Facilitating evidence-based practice research using resources at the National Library of Medicine” at the annual meeting of the Association of Caribbean, University, Research, and Institutional Libraries (ACURIL) in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic.

Ardis Hanson presented “Within and beyond the limits of disability: Identity and hope at Vincent House” at the annual meeting of the National Communication Association in Chicago, Illinois.

Ardis Hanson was installed as President of the Association of Caribbean University, Research, and Institutional Libraries (ACURIL).

Andy Huse presented “Crossing Boundaries with Florida’s Columbia Restaurant: Immigration, culinary adaptation, and changing business models” at the Association for the Study of Food and Society annual conference, Food in Bloom, in Bloomington, Indiana.

Andy Huse presented “The Columbia Restaurant: Celebrating a century of history, culture, and cuisine” at the Florida Historical Society Annual Meeting.

Catherine Lavallée-Welch, Shirley Bower, Robert Mayo, and Paul Roberts presented “Is a Rose by any Other Name?: A Panel on Polytechnic Libraries” at the Second Polytechnic Summit in Menomonie, Wisconsin.

Catherine Lavallée-Welch presented a poster session, “I Can Name that Tune in 140 Characters (Or Less),” at the Florida Library Association Annual Conference in Orlando, Florida.

Monica Metz-Wiseman presented on the topic of e-resource use statistics at the American Library Association Annual Meeting of ALCTS CRS E-Resources Interest Group held in Washington, D.C.

Monica Metz-Wiseman, Mark Sandler, and Becky Albitz presented at Harvard University on the topic of ebooks and their future in academic research libraries.

Tomaro I. Taylor presented the paper “Web 2.0 and Underrepresented Communities: Disseminating Latin American Cultural Heritage through Social Media and Networking” as part of the panel session “Beyond Institutional Borders: Archivists Document Underrepresented Communities’ presented at the Seminar on the Acquisition of Latin American Library Materials – 55 Annual Conference in Providence, Rhode Island.

Awards & Appointments

Danny O’Neal was elected chair of the Southern Chapter/Medical Library Association (SC/MLA), chair of the SC/MLA Strategic Planning Committee, and chair of the SC/MLA Nominating Committee.

Brenda Raiford was presented the Staff Senate Quiet Quality award.

Barbara A. Wood was elected chair of the Florida Health Sciences Library Association (FHSALA) Strategic Planning Committee, and chair of the FHSALA Nominating Committee.