After a nearly five year hiatus, the FIU Libraries newsletter INFO is back in production! Since its last issue in 2002 we have witnessed dramatic changes in the library.

Our buildings are more popular than ever and we are increasing technology resources to assist students in their work. Use of library laptops has increased by nearly 50%, and demand continues to exceed our supply, even though we have purchased over 100 additional laptops in the last three years. Last year we circulated almost 58,000 laptop peripherals and other devices. This year we are adding flat panel monitors to our group study rooms to give students new spaces to practice presentations and to facilitate group work. We are experimenting with tables equipped with technology to give students an alternative to the heavily used group study rooms. This fall we will also implement a digital signage system that will help students navigate our buildings and promote our services.

As we move from our traditional organization of library spaces to an information commons model, we will continue to make progress in building a technology-rich learning environment.

Our work is shifting as our collections become increasingly electronic. Nowhere is this more apparent than in our Interlibrary Loan services. Requests for books and articles from other libraries have fallen by half. But this is not a negative measure – rather a positive indication that our increased acquisition of e-journals from 20,000 titles in 2002 to 55,000 titles in 2010 has met more of our faculty and student need for journal articles. We’ve also increased the quality of our services, improving turnaround time and adding new delivery mechanisms. The latest addition, UBorrow, is a collaborative service among the state university libraries allowing our users to request books directly from those libraries.

In the midst of these changes, the FIU Libraries’ ongoing commitment to serve the needs of our students, faculty, and the local community is still paramount. While our technology and methods have changed, the traditional values of libraries still resonate. Our reference librarians interact with students in the library, in the classroom, and increasingly, using mobile and social networking tools. Last year we launched one of the university’s first mobile sites. This year, the librarians will launch a new roving service using iPads to interact with students in the library and at other locations around campus. Our technical and digital services staff continues to organize and provide access to our collections. The tools are more varied, and the collections themselves have expanded to include e-books, born-digital materials, and digital objects from our libraries and beyond. Twitter comments about the library tell us how important the library is in our students’ lives. As we move from our traditional organization of library spaces to an information commons model, we will continue make progress in building a technology-rich learning environment.

Laura Probst

From the Director of Development

Greetings! I’m happy to have joined the team as the FIU Libraries’ first professional dedicated to raising funds for the University Libraries.

My “to do” list here overflows beyond the raising of funds for the acquisition of newly-released books, e-books, journals and special collections. Imagine the Information Commons – a welcoming, wired, World’s Ahead space on the 2nd Floor of Green Library and 1st Floor of the Hubert Library and you get the idea. As FIU’s student enrollment grows, I will play my role in providing a physical environment where a larger number of students can collaborate, access resources or simply relax. Additionally, we will expand our online collections exclusively available to FIU students, faculty and staff, no matter where they are.

You are most cordially invited to participate in and facilitate our transformation. Consider a membership in our monthly giving program with easy automated credit card payments, or naming a space within the Library for amounts starting at $1200. A gift to University Libraries is a gift to the whole university.

Jennifer Rickmann
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In 1960, many Cuban parents had to face the unimaginable decision of sending their unaccompanied children to a foreign country, “in order to escape Communist indoctrination – in some cases to avoid being sent to Russia or one of the Soviet satellite countries for such indoctrination”. It was one year after Fidel Castro had taken power in Cuba and already he had started to close Catholic schools and churches, confiscate foreign-owned companies and nationalize industries. The fact that he saw the role of the Cuban youth as crucial for a successful revolution was clear with the formation of the Asociación de Jóvenes Rebeldes (Association of Youth Rebels) and other youth groups. Parents who did not support their children’s membership in these groups were considered anti-revolutionary and would face the consequences. The parents saw the separation from their children as temporary since they hoped their children would be able to return to Cuba soon. Even though it was still a rumor that Castro would abolish Patria Potestad, the legal rights of parents over their children, in some sense, it was already happening.

Father Bryan O. Walsh (later Monsignor Walsh), Catholic Welfare Bureau Executive Director, launched the “Cuban Children’s Program” in 1960 to provide foster care for Cuban refugee children who found themselves already in Miami, without parents or relatives to care for them (Walsh 1971). In December 1960 Fr. Walsh was approached by Mr. James Baker, headmaster of an American school in Havana, and was asked to assist in providing shelter and education for Cuban children who would be sent to Miami. So began Operation Pedro Pan. What was originally seen as possibly 200 students flying out of Cuba, soon turned into the largest exodus of unaccompanied children in the Western hemisphere. A total of 14,048 children arrived in the United States through Operation Pedro Pan. The 7,464 who did not have family in the United States were taken under the care of Miami child welfare agencies. 6,486 received care through the “Cuban Children’s Program”, and approximately 1,000 through the “Jewish Family and Children’s Service” and the “Children’s Service Bureau” (Walsh 1971). Various shelters were set up in Miami, and eventually 100 cities and 35 states provided foster care for these children (Operation Pedro Pan Group 2011). Operation Pedro Pan came to a halt on October 22, 1962 when the Cuban Missile Crisis ended commercial flights between Havana and Miami. However, many of the children continued in foster care for many years later.

Rita M. Cauce
LIBRARY NEWS & NOTES

Coral Gables Memory – Talking Book
In accordance with the University’s Carnegie community engagement classification, FIU’s Digital Collections Center has partnered with the City of Coral Gables to create a local history resource entitled Coral Gables Memory – Talking Book.

The Talking Book is an online interactive learning tool, which focuses on the people, places, and events that shaped the City of Coral Gables in its early history.

The project has two parts. The first is a narrative telling the story of the City’s history. The second is a database of photographs, texts, and ephemera related to the City.

For more about this project and to view the Talking Book, you may visit http://coralgables.fiu.edu/talking_book/

The Julian Kreeger Collection
The university has been the recipient of a large collection of LP recordings from Julian Kreeger, local Miami attorney, pianist, record producer, music aficionado and impresario.

Preparations are under way to house this collection of 20,000+ recordings on the fifth floor of Green Library. The collection is particularly rich in piano and chamber music and included are many rare recordings of archival quality of limited commercial distribution.

UBorrow: a New Library Service
UBorrow is an unmediated interlibrary loan system between the State University Libraries. The purpose of UBorrow is to more efficiently share books between the State University Libraries. This means requests for books placed through UBorrow will be received quicker than a traditional Interlibrary Loan request. Only current FIU faculty, staff, and students are eligible to use UBorrow. For more information or to submit UBorrow requests, please go to: http://union.catalog.fcla.edu

GIS Learning, Research, and Services
Come to the Biscayne Bay Campus Hubert Library at FIU
Florida International University and the Biscayne Bay Campus Hubert Library (HL) are pleased to announce the opening of the new Geographic Information Systems Laboratory (GIS). The facility located at HL 124 is equipped with a state-of-art teaching lab with 18 high performance PC work stations and 6 lab tops, a HP 36” plotter, a HP 42” drum scanner and a 3D photogrammetry work station. This facility is open to all faculty, graduate and undergraduate students for the purpose of teaching, learning and research in areas where geo-spatial, statistical analysis and data visualization are needed. A GIS research and consultation service area is located at HL 127 and opens Monday to Friday from 9:30 to 5:00. Further information about services and resources at FIU’s GIS Center can be viewed at http://gis.fiu.edu. This service is funded by the 2010 student Technology Fee grant.

From the Associate Dean for Public Services
Information Commons Laptop Lounge Areas
Over the past two years, the Libraries had been in the process of gathering feedback and ideas from students and faculty to assist with the creation of an Information Commons space. Using that feedback a small group of library faculty (Consuela Askew, Adis Beesting, Nancy Hershoff, George Fray, and Jennifer Fu) worked together to bring those ideas to life. As a result, the Libraries invested over $60,000 to create comfortable and individual “laptop lounge” areas on the second floor of Green and Hubert Libraries.

Mobile furniture has been mixed with fixed furniture pieces, to allow students to configure their study space to meeting their needs. The new group study tables come equipped with multiple electric outlets enhancing students’ abilities to use multiple portable electronic devices, such as iPads, laptops, DVD players, etc. Although for now these tables are only available in the Hubert Library, the plan is to have them installed at Green Library as soon as funding becomes available. This is hoped to be the first phase of a multi-phase project that will ultimately attain our goal of providing a full-fledged Information Commons space for our students.

Consuela Askew

Ask us Anywhere
The “Ask Us Anywhere” technology fee proposal was approved and now the project is well under way. Volunteers have received a 32GB iPad2, an Otterbox, to keep the iPad2 secure, and a wireless keyboard. The roving schedule is flexible, but the aim is for coverage of hours between 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
INFO PEOPLE

Stephanie Brenenson has stepped up from Bibliographic Instruction Coordinator to assume the post of Graduate Studies Librarian. In this new position she will essentially, focus on providing strategic support for graduate student scholarship by promoting and cultivating research services to support their research and teaching needs. She thinks of her new role as “part ambassador for the Libraries’, part advocate for graduate students.

Lauren Christos (University Librarian) chaired the American Library Association’s Intellectual Freedom Round Table. She was awarded the Faculty Senate Excellence in Librarianship Award in October 2011, and was awarded the University of South Florida’s Jean Key Gates Distinguished Alumni Award in April 2011. She published a chapter in True Stories of Censorship in American Libraries titled “Vamos a Cuba: 26 Sentences, Censorship, and $250,000 later: When School Boards Have Their Way,” published by American Library Association Editions.

Sarah Hammill (Distance Learning Librarian) presented two papers at the Qualitative Report’s 2nd Annual Conference: “Identity Construction through Active Listening in an Online Environment” and “Language, Gender and Identity in an English Language Learning CMC Environment.” She co-presented at the Southeast TESOL conference on “From Networking to Collaboration to a College Teaching Position.”

Dan Hardin (Music Librarian) travelled to England during June as organ accompanist for the choir of the Church of the Nativity of Huntsville, Alabama. The choir’s tour included performances in Canterbury, Gloucester and Bristol cathedrals.

WELCOME ABOARD

Kathryn (Katy) Corrigan is the new Business Reference Librarian. She grew up in the Seattle area and received her B.A. in Anthropology from the University of Washington in Seattle, WA. After graduation, Katy went on to work in a number of different occupations ranging from office assistance at a software company, human resources at an IT consulting firm, and retail management before deciding to become a librarian and pursue a master’s degree. She worked in both public and academic libraries as a paraprofessional while working on her degree and was a Graduate Assistant at the University of South Florida Libraries. Katy received her M.A. in Library & Information Science in May of 2010 from the University of South Florida. She is currently working on a number of collaborative projects with the College of Business Administration including the “Write to Learn” or “W2L” initiative to strengthen the research and writing skills of MBA students. Other projects include developing videos, tutorials, and other online instructional tools in collaboration with Sarah Hammill, FIU Online, and the College of Business Administration.

Junli Diao was born in China in 1972; Junli Diao is a Metadata and Cataloging Services Librarian in the Cataloging Department. He holds a Master’s degree in Education from Queen’s University and a MLIS degree from the University of North Florida. He has also worked on the National Science Foundation project of Metadata Categorization. Junli Diao completed his undergraduate degree at Trinity University in San Antonio, TX and his graduate degree in library sciences at the University of South Florida in Tampa, FL., and she hopes to pursue another advanced degree in the future.

Zhonghua Du is a Metadata and Cataloging Services Librarian in the Cataloging Department at Green Library. Zhonghua received her Master of Medicine degree from Shanghai University of Traditional Chinese Medicine in China. Later she earned her Master of Library and Information Science (JLIS), and Chair of the JLIS English Editorial Board.

Susan Weiss (Urban and Environmental Affairs Librarian) collaborated with colleagues from the Geographical Information Services and Digital Library departments on projects dealing with the Everglades and South Florida environment and history. She searched for and identified relevant material to be included in the Everglades Digital Library.

Mary Radnor (Resource Sharing Librarian) presented the conference session “ILLiad Routing Rules You Cannot Work Without” at the 2011 OCLC ILLiad International Conference. She successfully completed the yearlong Sunshine State Library Leadership Institute, a program whose primary goal is to develop future library leaders in Florida. She is also currently serving as the American Libraries Association Sharing and Transforming Access to Resources Section Representative for the Reference and User Services Association Organization and Planning Committee.

Ava Iuliano is the new International Affairs Reference Librarian. Of Trinidadian and Irish-Italian background, she was born and raised in Saudi Arabia and has always loved culture, travel and anything with an international flair, making International Relations a perfect fit for her specialization. Ava completed her undergraduate degree at Trinity University in San Antonio, TX and her graduate degree in library sciences at the University of South Florida in Tampa, FL., and she hopes to pursue another advanced degree in the future.

Margarita Mirabal was hired August 22, 2011 by the Digital Collections Center as the new Library Digital Archivist. She comes to us with a background in digital collections as the new Library Digital Archivist. She comes to us with a background in digital collections from the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Wildlife Conservation Society. She is also a FIU alumnus, receiving her bachelor's degree from the university in History.