Pointing the Way: The Nelson Poynter Memorial Library

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September 1965: The University of South Florida launched classes at the Bay Campus, but students had only a borrowing library without staff or librarians on site to assist them.

Fall 1965: The Extension Library opened its collection to Bay Campus students.

1968-1969: Regular library service began at USF St. Petersburg's 'A' Building. Audiovisual services were coordinated through an employee hired by the Tampa campus.

1972: The SUS Extension Library moved to an off-site location, allowing for the expansion of library facilities including a group study room in the 'A' Building.

January 1973: The library made plans to implement an "intralibrary" loan system with the Tampa Campus Library, then located in Tampa's SVC building.

June 15, 1978: Groundbreaking ceremonies for new 40,000 square foot library facility, now Bayboro Hall.

1980: The overcrowded library in 'A' Building contained over 76,000 volumes and nearly 600 periodical subscriptions.


1985: Library holdings surpassed 100,000 volumes.

November 1985: The Society for Advancement of Poynter Library organized as a support organization.

1985-1986: Library staff barcoded book collections and prepared for an online library catalog and circulation system.

Fall 1986: USF library holdings placed on LUIS, the "Library User Information System," an automated catalog. The card catalog was no longer updated.

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Summer 1996: Old library closed as collections were moved to the new building.

August 1996: New library opened in time for classes, with dedication ceremonies on November 1.

October 1996: Vice Presidential Debate reception held in new library as its first grand debut.

1999: DVDs were added to the collection for the first time.


Spring 2003: Library systems team installed a wireless LAN in the building.

2004: Last phonographic records were removed from the library's collection.

June 2005: Transition to a new online catalog for the USF Libraries System.