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Special Collections and University Archives Annual Report : July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018

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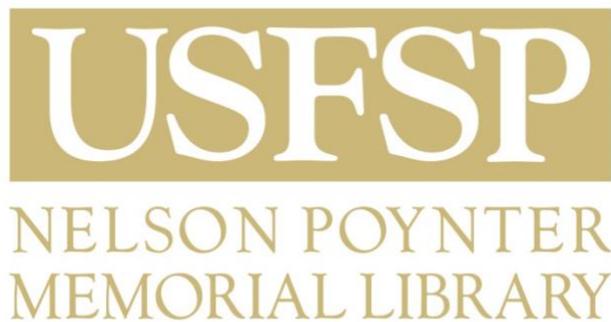
**Special Collections and University Archives
Annual Report**

July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018

University of South Florida St. Petersburg

Compiled by David Shedden

August 2018



One of the most important roles of Special Collections and University Archives (SCUA) is to preserve and share stories. Those stories come in many archival forms but they all have something to teach us.

During the past year SCUA successfully reimagined and created a new teaching and archival environment to share those stories with students and other researchers.

SCUA shared historical resources in new and creative ways during the past year. In addition to traditional resources and presentations, SCUA used technologies such as Google Earth to describe local and regional archival collections.

History, journalism, and writing students were especially receptive to our new storytelling tools. As an example, nature writing students could see how St. Petersburg's Booker Creek has played a long and important role in the history of South St. Petersburg. Using the library's online *Weekly Challenger* archive, Neighborhood News Bureau journalism students were reminded that news is often the first rough draft of history.



During 2017-2018 SCUA reorganized the special collections closed stacks area and the off-site storage facility/vault. Five ranges of high-density, compact shelving were added to the vault, allowing for better access and storage of unique collections. Art racks were added to two of the four walls in the vault to better manage framed material or artwork.



Moving materials to the vault allowed the SCUA team to recapture the reading room and acquire mobile, flexible furniture, and technology. Classes, small groups, and individuals are now able to take advantage of the new learning environment.



Additional Highlights

- Students and other researchers continued to benefit from the library's partnership with *The Weekly Challenger* newspaper. Special collections staff used *Weekly Challenger* resources with the journalism department's Neighborhood News Bureau as well as other students interested in the history of St. Petersburg's African-American community.
- Alexandra Curran, *The Weekly Challenger* collections specialist, developed processes and workflows while digitizing, OCR'ing, and uploading to Digital USFSP currently existing print issues of *The Weekly*

Challenger. Current issues of the paper starting in 2009 to the present were uploaded using their born-digital formatted copies of the paper.

- In June 2018 SCUA began developing a new online teaching tool about the history and stories of *The Weekly Challenger* and St. Petersburg’s African-American community. "Weekly Challenger Stories & Chronology (1967-2018)" <http://lib.usfsp.edu/weeklychallenger>
- Digital Collections Project Manager Jenny Tolbert and the digital collections team completed the migration of Digital USFSP from DSpace to bepress’s Digital Commons during 2017-2018. (Please see the attachment at the end of the annual report for detailed statistics about Digital USFSP and *The Weekly Challenger* project. General download statistics are listed below.)

DIGITAL USFSP ARCHIVE
All Collections
Download Statistics (July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018)

COUNTRIES	INSTITUTIONS	ITEMS
137	1,236	20,870

DIGITAL USFSP ARCHIVE
***The Weekly Challenger* Collection**
Download Statistics (July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018)

COUNTRIES	INSTITUTIONS	ITEMS
66	137	2,837

- The SCUA team updated the Special Collections Development Guidelines, which were approved by the Library Leadership Team. The guidelines describe the materials and content the library will accept into the collection in order to keep it under control.
- Although the use of the special collections reading room was substantially reduced while remodeling took place and collections were moved during 2017-2018, patrons continued to visit and displays were created about the Jacobs / Wagner photograph collection, the La Florida Digital Archive, and selected St. Petersburg historical postcards.
- The Poynter Memorial Library unveiled its new SCUA reading room with a ribbon cutting on April 17, 2018. Visitors were introduced to *The Weekly Challenger* collection as well as older collections such as the John C. Briggs Collection of Ichthyology and Natural History, the David S. Hubbell Collection

on Twainiana, and the Florida Studies book collection.

- In May 2018 the SCUA reading room was part of a St. Petersburg Innovation District tour for members of the community. Various collections were highlighted with large screen slideshow presentations and archival displays.
- During 2017-2018 approximately 80 email, phone, and in-person research requests were made to SCUA staff. About half of those were from the community.
- Curricular Related Instruction during 2017-2018:
 1. July 6, 2017 (20 people)
Bernardo Motta's Neighborhood News Bureau journalism class.
A presentation about the history of *The Weekly Challenger* and the library's TWC project. (David Shedden and Alexandra Curran)
 2. August 30, 2017 (19 people)
Bernardo Motta's Neighborhood News Bureau journalism class.
A presentation about the history of *The Weekly Challenger* and the library's TWC project. (David Shedden and Alexandra Curran)
 3. March 2, 2018 (16 people)
Dr. Thomas Hallock's nature writing course.
A Google Earth presentation about special collections and local history resources with an emphasis on Booker Creek.
(David Shedden)
 4. February 22, 2018 (22 people)
Bernardo Motta's Neighborhood News Bureau journalism class.
A Google Earth presentation about special collections, local history resources, the history of *The Weekly Challenger* and the library's TWC project.
(David Shedden and Alexandra Curran)
- In April 2018 Library Dean Catherine Cardwell and *Weekly Challenger* collections specialist Alexandra Curran presented a paper at an international media conference focused on preservation and access of newspapers.

Cardwell, C. & Curran, A. (2018). Preserving, digitizing, and sustaining *The Weekly Challenger*, a local African-American newspaper. Proceedings of the 2018 IFLA International News Media Conference, April 18-20, 2018, Gainesville, FL.

https://digital.usfsp.edu/fac_publications/3213/

USFSP Digital Archive Metrics
July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018
Compiled by Alexandra Curran



Readership Distribution:

Materials from the [USFSP Digital Archive](#) have been downloaded from around the world.

Countries:

137 countries downloaded from the Digital Archive. The United States holds the most downloads, with France second and the United Kingdom third.

Institutions:

1,236 institutions downloaded from the Digital Archive. In the graph, they are also organized by institution type. 73% were from education, 19% were commercial, 4% were government, 2% were organizations, and less than 1% were military and library. (Many libraries are probably in the education category.)

Referrers:

(search engines or other websites that referred a searcher to the Digital Archive.)

Google is our main referrer source with Google Scholar and the Digital Archive search engine a close second and third.

Total number of downloads:

20,870 items were downloaded from the Digital Archive. During this period, our Digital Archive in DSpace was still available to the public. The Digital Archive in bepress started being used more around November 2017.

Works Posted:

Works were still being transferred from Dspace into bepress until March 2018.

Works that were downloaded the most:

The most downloaded item was the article "[For the students: the 1968 Florida teacher strike](#)," with 295 downloads. "[Representations of Transgender Murder Victims in Digital U.S. News Media: A framing analysis](#)," was a close second at 294 downloads.

USFSP Digital Archive
***The Weekly Challenger* Collection Metrics**
July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018



Readership Distribution:

Materials from [The Weekly Challenger](#) collection within the [USFSP Digital Archive](#) have been downloaded from around the world.

Countries:

66 countries downloaded from the Digital Archive. The United States holds the most downloads, with France second and Canada third.

Institutions:

137 institutions downloaded from the Digital Archive. In the graph, they are also organized by institution type. 73% were from education, 18% were commercial, 4% were government, 2% were organizations, and less than 1% were military and library.

(Many libraries are probably in the education category.)

Referrers:

(search engines or other websites that referred a searcher to the Digital Archive.)

Google is our main referrer source with the Digital Archive search engine second.

Total number of downloads:

2,837 items were downloaded from the Digital Archive.

Works Posted:

So far, 829 items have been posted within the [collection](#). 676 records were [newspaper issues](#) and 154 records were [photographs](#). The digitized newspaper issues were all ingested by May 2018. It should be noted that this collection is ongoing and materials, including newspaper issues and photographs, are still being collected and ingested.

Works that were downloaded the most:

The most downloaded newspaper issue is [The Weekly Challenger: 1976 : 12 : 18](#) issue, with 108 downloads.