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# **Open-Source, Open-Access Digital Archives in the Sunshine: A Review of Current Initiatives in Florida's Public Universities**

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As archives, libraries, and cultural heritage institutions preserve significant collections, they inform the community of the resources they offer while striving to assure long-term future access. Digitization initiatives have promoted broader temporal and geographic access while requiring minimal use of the original items. Digital archives may include bitstreams that preserve the original content in an intelligible format, rich metadata that establishes the provenance and context, relational connections to finding aids or other tools that link within and across collections, and deeds of gift or other documents that reaffirm ownership or delineate copyright. Although early digital archive initiatives focused primarily on the physical acts of scanning and storing, most projects launched in recent years have involved substantial planning and development before the establishment of the first digital sub-community or the harvesting of the first materials from websites.

Institutions of higher learning have implemented a variety of digital archive platforms. Some entities have relied upon proprietary or subscription-based software that permits limited modification and that requires recurring financial outlays. Other institutions have selected open-source software such as D-Space and ICA-AtOM that permit repositories to provide access to content without the same financial commitments. Many universities have multiple platforms for university archives, manuscript and photographic collections, and shared collections across institutional boundaries.

Using quantitative statistics and qualitative interviews, **Kelsey Adams** and **Mia Tignor** will examine and evaluate the current use of open source software in Florida's public universities, as well as discuss successful multi-institutional implementations from around the state, including Publication of Archival Library and Museum Materials (PALMM), a collaborative initiative that spans several public Florida Universities. Adams and Tignor will also introduce the audience to CORAL, a database system developed by the Tampa Library of the University of South Florida that uses open-source programs and in-house software to create a digital system tailored to USF's own needs. Special attention will be given to usage statistics of these special collections and the impact of digital assets on community use, as well as various issues these institutions may face when attempting to bridge the digital divide.

**Jim Schnur**, special collections librarian at the Nelson Poynter Memorial Library, University of South Florida St. Petersburg (USFSP), follows Adams and Tignor with a discussion of the

planning and implementation of the USFSP Digital Archive (<http://dspace.nelson.usf.edu/xmlui>). A separately accredited institution within the University of South Florida System, USFSP needed to assume responsibility for preserving institutional records that are currently located in a beautiful but vulnerable library along the waterfront of Tampa Bay. Schnur also will outline some of the strategic directions made in managing the project, incorporating scholarly works of faculty and students, and planning for future expansion.

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