

“Preserving Diverse Voices and Conserving Their Heritage:
Lessons Learned in the Tampa Bay Region”

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This document offers a list of cues that describe the presentation offered at the annual meeting of the Society of Florida Archivists. The actual presentation was delivered extemporaneously and without a formal script.

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| (Slide 1) | Greetings and introduction of topic |
| (Slides 2 and 3) | Description of Tampa Bay region, with images of St. Petersburg |
| (Slide 4) | “Diverse” voices include records of our prehistory |
| (Slide 5) | Acquisition of the W.R. “Butch” Evans Collection |
| (Slides 6 and 7) | Significance of collection to telling the story of Pre-Columbian history and contextualizing the first contacts between indigenous and European cultures |
| (Slide 8) | Importance of collection in “correcting” inaccurate sources, showing article that celebrates desecration of Indian mounds to create paved roads |
| (Slide 9) | Collection came to library as part of an exhibit and was donated thereafter |
| (Slide 10) | Collection plays an important role in public lectures and outreach about Tampa Bay’s early history, including a program developed by an archivist and student that has taken place in many venues |
| (Slide 11) | Placement of information about collection in the USFSP Digital Archive promotes access and enhances an understanding of an important historical period with few primary source materials |
| (Slide 12) | While archivists always seek new sources that tell stories that represent the entire community, sometimes another look in traditional sources also opens doors to forgotten chapters of our past |
| (Slide 13) | Describes how jail records in Pinellas County and Hillsborough County, along with other public records that are available, have value beyond genealogy in examining larger historical questions, with specific mention of arrests in African American communities for liquor law violations during Prohibition |
| (Slides 14 thru 16) | Sometimes the collections of white supremacists, such as the Herbert S. Philips Papers at USF Tampa, have materials that allow us to understand civil rights history, race relations, and other facets of diversity by looking both at false caricatures and other materials collected by those who disdained diversity |
| (Slides 17 and 18) | Discuss the way that collections may be sanitized and continue to have access restricted for a period of time to assuage the wishes of donors, such as the restrictions placed on the Sumter Lowry collection at USF Tampa, a collection closed until 2015 (twenty-five years after donation), yet one that also was heavily sanitized due to Lowry’s avowed white supremacy; mention this in context with LeRoy Collins and the Collins papers at USF Tampa and FSU |
| (Slide 19) | A product of Tampa, the Lowry family history and story extends beyond the |

- Tampa Bay region, so getting these records was important, even with the restrictions put in place
- (Slide 20) Describe the Jordan Park Collection materials added to USFSP's Poynter Library, adding that these items were saved from a home and nearly lost to the elements
- (Slide 21) Historic boundaries of segregated communities in St. Petersburg prior to and during the construction of Jordan Park as a residential community for African Americans in St. Petersburg
- (Slides 22 thru 24) Using the images to tell the story of Jim Crow accommodations
- (Slide 25) Recapturing life in communities rarely witnessed by outsiders
- (Slide 26) Sources such as the Jordan Park Collection fill gaps left in the record from a time when many primary and secondary documents demonstrated overt bias and racism
- (Slide 27) Explain how they help fill in gaps in the story, along with other sources, such as the "Negro news page" sections of newspapers from the time and other archival collections
- (Slides 28 thru 30) These collections document chapters of the larger city's history forgotten by most residents today, as is illustrated by these images of the Gas Plant district
- (Slides 31 thru 38) An extended discussion of the future potential to take the images, descriptions, and other metadata saved in these collections and use it to map, document, and reconstruct the history of a community that has no tangible physical presence in that area, using the Gas Plant community as an example
- (Slide 39) The Jordan Park Collection also describes a new and improved community that took shape during the Jim Crow period in St. Petersburg
- (Slides 40 thru 63) Using a chronological walk through time as illustrated by images saved in this collection, demonstrate how the photographs preserved allow archivists to both document transitions within a community and offer context (such as the descriptions placed on these images outlining schools, buffer zones, etc.) to assist outside researchers unfamiliar with the area
- (Slides 64 and 65) The stories preserved in archival collections such as the Jordan Park Collection remain significant and have attracted interest from those unfamiliar as well as one-time resident, and the library has hosted events to show those who once lived there the library's commitment to preserving these documents and sharing their significance, including through an initiative by the City of St. Petersburg to develop historical markers in the African American community
- (Slides 66 thru 70) Using then-and-now images of the Gas Plant under redevelopment and the Tropicana Field stadium and parking lots now at the side, explain that archives must pursue collections that tell these transitions, including ones related to gentrification, and that building trust is a key component of this practice
- (Slide 71) The library's involvement in preserving the Jordan Park Collection opened other doors, including a negotiated purchase/donation of the Omali Yeshitela Collection, and a brief explanation of this collection's background was offered

- (Slides 72 and 73) Discussion of the building of trust for acquiring the Omali Yeshitela Collection also included an emphasis on our need to get involved in outreach by mentioning the capstone event after the donation, a public program that included a webcast throughout the world and the negotiations involved with various stakeholders (the donors, university representatives, etc.) to make this possible
- (Slide 74) Introduce that even within “diverse” collections, there may be controversial elements, and we must consider our roles as educators when deciding how and when to contextualize a collection, using the Papers of Norman Jones Sr. as an example and including a brief (2 minute) segment of an oral history interview in which Jones, an African American man, refers to Martin Luther King with contempt and proudly states that the United States should have a national holiday to commemorate the arrival of slaves and slavery along our shorelines
- (Slide 75) We should collect a variety of magazines and other publications geared towards various segments of the community, and this also allowed the presentation to transition into the importance of collecting items such as GLBTQ records that illustrate diversity of sexual preference and gender identity
- (Slide 76) Such records may appear as part of university archives, such as these items related to the USF committees
- (Slides 77 thru 79) While other archival materials appear in donations actively pursued such as the GLBTQ collections that have been collected by the USF Tampa Campus Library
- (Slide 80) “Diversity” also includes different generations of residents and visitors, and allows us to see how communities live, evolve, and change
- (Slide 81) As examples of “immigrant” communities, a brief discussion described the importance of documenting groups such as various Hispanic communities (earlier waves of Cubans in Ybor City and West Tampa, later Mexican groups in Clearwater and Ruskin, for example), as well as other populations (such as numerous Vietnamese communities in the Tampa Bay region
- (Slide 82) In building collections, archivists must realize that some will have content that may require others to translate, both literally and figuratively, the stories contained within
- (Slide 83) Description of the acquisition of the *Weekly Challenger* newspaper collection and photographs from the paper as a recent initiative, at USFSP
- (Slides 84 and 85) Overview of the collection, including permissions received to allow for digitization after an appropriate embargo period
- (Slides 86 thru 89) Challenges when working with some collections, such as that storage conditions prior to the arrival of photographs and other documents may have been less than optimal and that the archive may have to invest in resources to preserve the materials that were not anticipated prior to the donation
- (Slides 90 and 91) Focusing on actual examples related to the donation of two accessions of the Papers of Gabe Cazares, discussion of student involvement and service learning opportunities illustrated how students can become part of the archival process

- (Slides 92 and 93) In obtaining collections, sometimes questionable or difficult-to-ascertain provenance can complicate the acquisitions process, with a discussion of how the Pinellas NOW Chapter papers at USFSP, although part of the organization's original archive, came to the library from former officers who were not involved in the group's leadership at the time
- (Slide 94) Brief mention of the value of oral history in filling gaps for collections and in assuring that diverse voices are represented
- (Slide 95) If we, as archival professionals, do our work properly, these collections will enhance scholarship and also share the diverse voices through a rich slate of public programming
- (Slides 96 and 97) Brief discussion of some highlights of collection initiatives at USF Tampa
- (Slides 98 thru 101) Brief discussion of how the digitization initiative of Juvenile Welfare Board of Pinellas County as part of the USFSP Digital Archive tells another story of "diversity," by capturing the sociology of children and young adults
- (Slide 102) "Thanks" and question-and-answer session