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Digital Collections in the University Classroom: Inspiring your faculty with regional content

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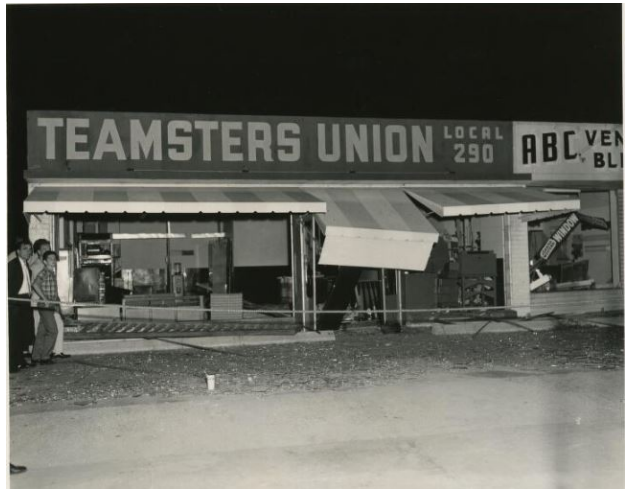


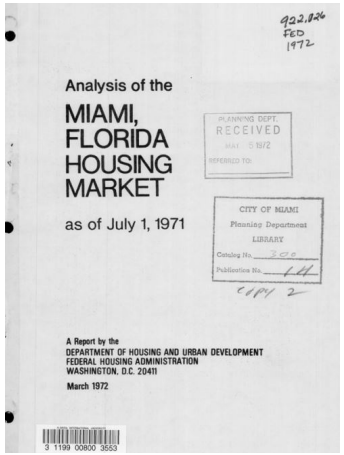
Vice President's Plans To Visit Here Confirmed

This morning Herbert E. Wolfe, chairman of the St. Augustine Historical Restoration and Preservation Commission, was officially advised that Vice President Lyndon Johnson has confirmed his acceptance of an invitation to be present at the formal dedication of the Arrivas House, a completed phase of the St. Augustine Restoration and Preservation project.

The dedication is scheduled for March 11th and in addition to the Vice President of the United States, also present will be other prominent national, state and international figures. Although a list of visiting dignitaries expected has not been completed it includes members of the U.S. Congress and Senate, Gov. Farris Bryant, state cabinet members, legislative leaders and members. The Spanish Ambassador has also expressed a wish to attend, along with other Spanish government leaders.

This planned visit by the Vice President further points out the U.S. Government's increasing interest in the restoration and preservation project and the 400th anniversary celebration in 1965.

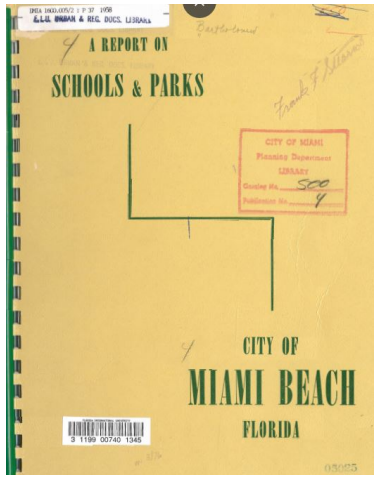
Further plans concerning the formal dedication of the Arrivas House and accompanying events to entertain the visiting dignitaries will be published at a later date. Included on the present committee making plans for the event are Mr. Wolfe, Earle Newton, director of the Restoration and Preservation Commission; Mayor - Commissioner James Lindsley, State Representative F. Charles Usina, Jaycee President Jim McKinnon, County Commission Chairman Lewis Parrish, and Chamber of Commerce President Adin Maltby.



Digital Collections in the University Classroom

Inspiring your faculty with regional content

Kelley Rowan, FIU & Christopher Davis, FAU



Historians in the Library

City of Miami Beach

http://dpanther.fiu.edu/dPanther/collections/imbda

Digital Scholar Studio

dss.fiu.edu

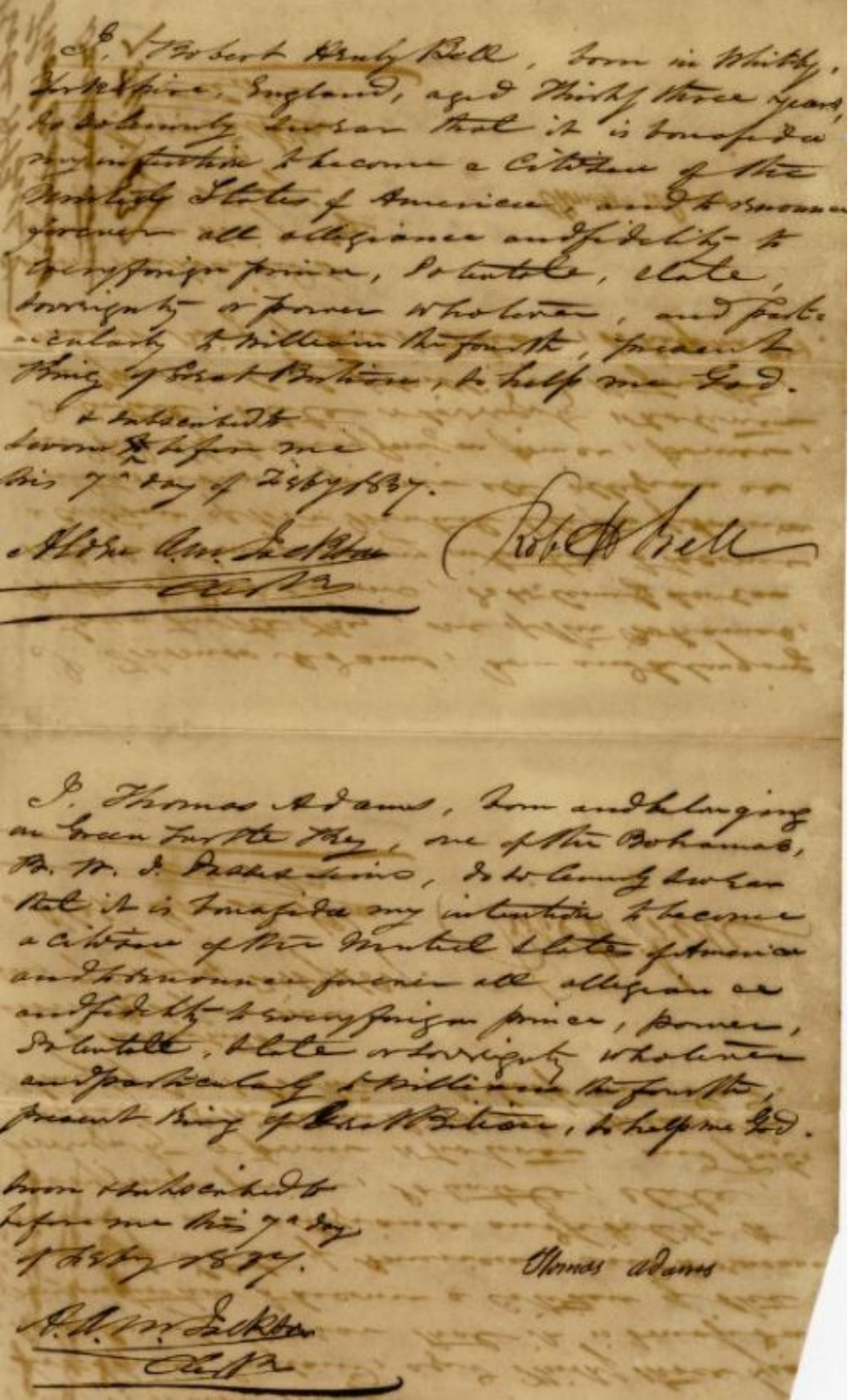
Virginia Key Beach Park Trust

http://dpanther.fiu.edu/dPanther/collections/vkt

Mile Markers Collection

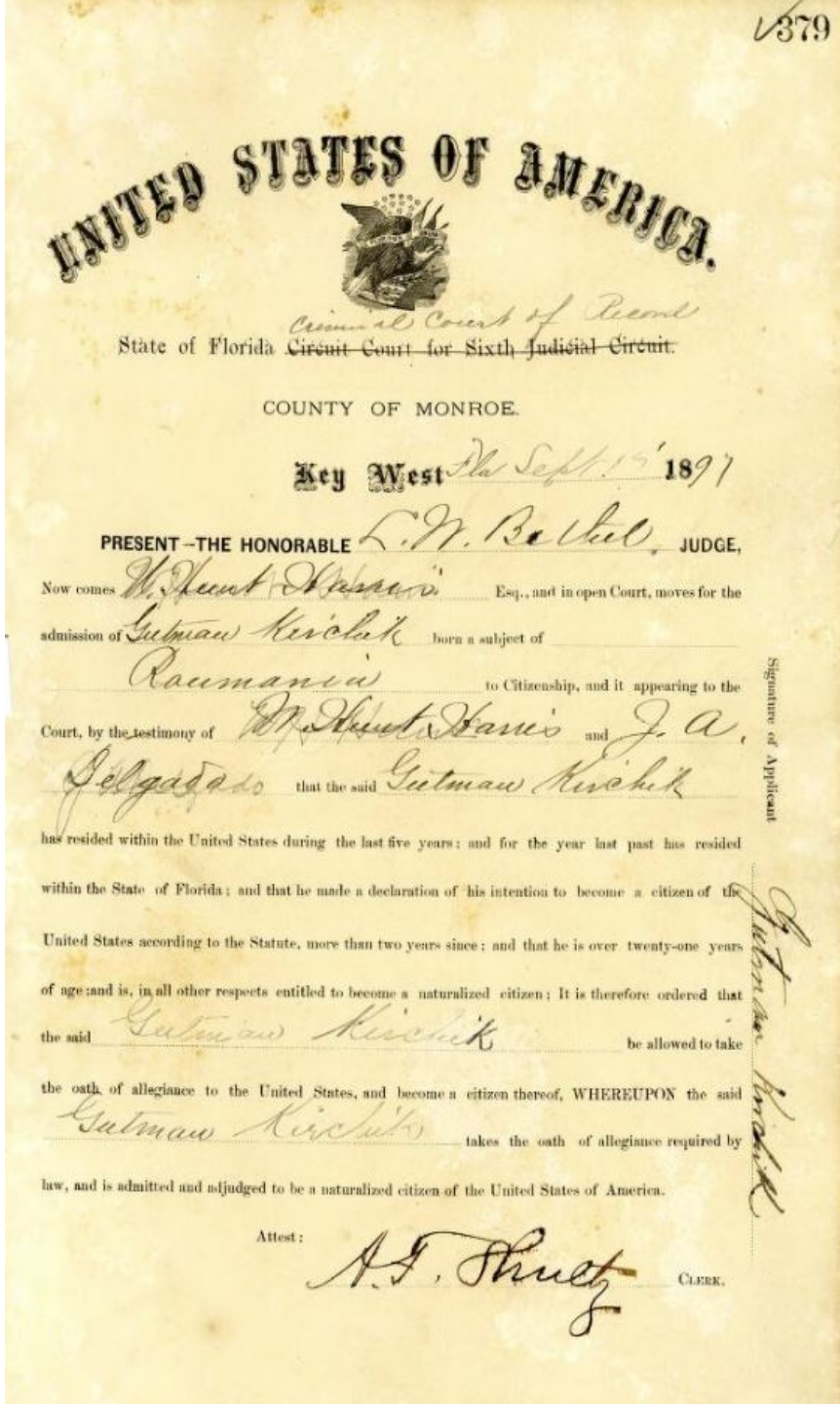
http://dpanther.fiu.edu/dPanther/collections/mile

Mile Markers Collection



Thomas Adams of Green Turtle Cay, Bahama Islands

http://dpanther.fiu.edu/dpService/dpPurlService/purl/FI18090700/00015



Gutman Kirchik of Romania

http://dpanther.fiu.edu/dpService/dpPurlService/purl/FI18090700/00838

Collaboration

- Reach out to departments with a job opportunity for their students
  - Humanities
    - History
    - Journalism
    - Religious studies
- DSS / DH?

Challenges for Librarians

- Time spent on Grant writing/cost
- Training time
- Network access
- Space
- Varying skill levels
- Personnel issues

Benefits for Librarians

- Metadata creation by historians
- Key words developed by users
- New perspectives on the collection
- Digitization work
- Time
- Exposure of collections

Benefits of Library Experience

- Discovered previously unknown resources
- Saw how library was connected through out university
- Developed an awareness and application of key library language
- Gained higher interest in local history and how it relates nationally
- Greatly improved job opportunities
- Real job experience
- Opened up a whole new career possibility
- Able to integrate library resources into the classroom
- Applying historical training to something tangible
- Learning to problem solve and find work-arounds
- Appreciated professionalism and mentorship of librarians
- Learned:
  - Adobe suite
  - OCR
  - Metadata
  - Archival quality digitization
  - Solutions for data stored on outdated formats

Challenges of Library Experience

- Didn't know library resources existed before
- Better communication of job expectations between department and library
- Help adding library experience to CV
- Earlier exposure to library experience
- Could have turned library work into a dissertation
- Work was occasionally monotonous
- A single mistake could involve hours of work to fix
- Students need to come to library work with the ability to manage their work/study time

Should YOU include Historians in the Library?

- Do you have the space?
- Do you have the time to train?
  - Metadata
  - Subject headings/authorities
  - Rights statements
  - Organization
- Do you have the funds?
  - Grants
  - Volunteers
  - Work study

Expectations of position

- Serve as background historian for the Digital Library
  - Provide expert information for pieces in the collection
- Improve the Archive
  - Use research skills to fill gaps
  - Provide links to between sources
- Reorganize Databases
  - Make sure everything is accurate
  - Accessible for academic use

Realities of Position

- Employed different kind of historical skills
  - Less expertise from dissertation
  - More field methods
- Public History has a different purpose
  - Outside the box analysis
- Quickly master computer literacy
  - On the spot training

- Complimented the tasks of the Digital Librarians
  - Complete on-going projects
    - Grant deadlines vs. University Projects
  - Reorganization of old projects
    - Missing files/information
  - Metadata creation
    - Can be tedious, monotonous
  - Audio/Visual Transcription; OCR Scanning
    - Equipment setup and/or failure

Application of historical skills

- Cross-referencing entries for accuracy
- Verifying Dates, Names, Events
- Creating easy to understand summaries
- Using analytic skills to connect sources
- Reading old/damaged files
- Deciphering odd sources
- Understanding the value of collections
- Creating Digital Bridges for researchers

Greater North Miami Historical Society
http://dpanther.fiu.edu/dpService/dpPurlService/purl/FI14103421/00001

Library skills acquired

City of Miami Beach Archives
http://dpanther.fiu.edu/dpService/dpPurlService/purl/MB18012223/00007

- Metadata creation
  - Library of Congress Training
  - Cleanest Spreadsheets
- Harnessing the power of the Adobe Suite
  - Not just Photoshop
- Knowledge of key applications
  - Transcription
  - OCR
- Importance of archiving data
  - More than just a holding pen

Benefit of library experience to the historian

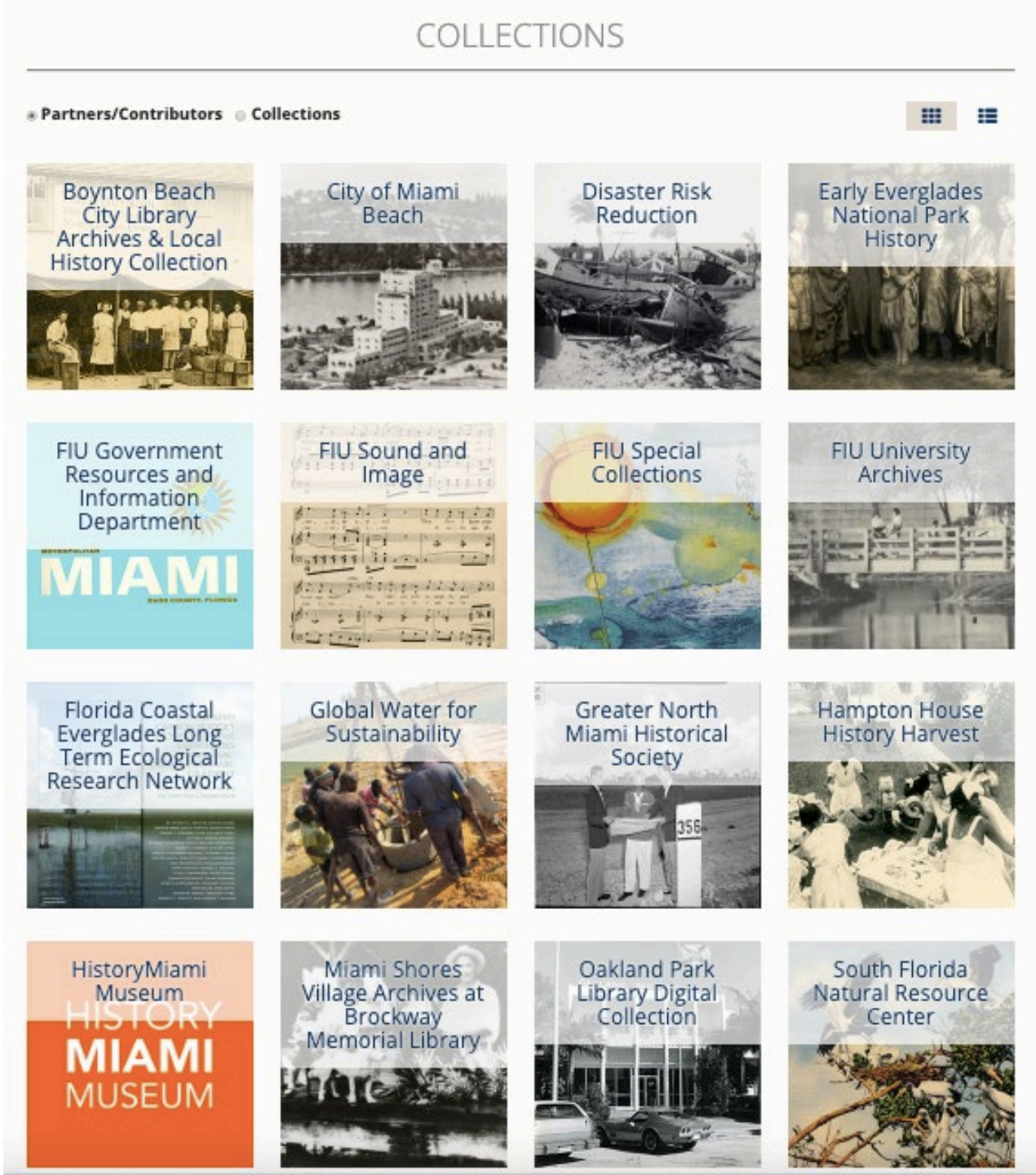
- Exposure to other parts of the process
  - Historians utilize sources rather making archives accessible
  - Metadata critical to make collections viable for researchers
  - Realize the value of repositories and how they are presented

- Explore other facets of field
  - Focus on Local/Regional documents vs National/Global studies
  - Move away from purely academic investigations
  - Introducing digital resources for 21th Century classrooms

City of Miami Beach Archive
http://dpanther.fiu.edu/dpService/dpPurlService/purl/MB00000335/00001

Overview of Digital History project

- Students access the dPanther Repository to conduct a primary source examination
- They must connect sources on South Florida's past to topics in Modern America
- The format is in-depth analysis of sources rather than typical essay
- Goal is to understand the purpose, the relevance, and the importance of the sources on both a local and national level
- Students explore digital archives to find a topic that allows rethink course themes



Results

- Students rediscover aspects of South Florida History
  - Miami Beach as military training site during World War II
  - Coral Gables as the model of American suburbia
  - Rediscovering Jim Crow Miami

- Students produced better essays
  - These were the best essays all semester
  - Many are natives to the region
    - Better connections to their history

- Explore Digital History in the Classroom
  - More use of digital archives when appropriate
  - Export this model to future courses
  - Reach other to libraries about access of collections

Discussion

Coral Gables Memory Collection:
http://dpanther.fiu.edu/dpService/dpPurlService/purl/FI12062802/00001

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Credits from dpanther.fiu.edu

- Slide 4: Mile Markers Collection - http://dpanther.fiu.edu/dpService/dpPurlService/purl/MM00002553/00001
- Slide 5: Boynton Beach Photograph Collection – http://dpanther.fiu.edu/dpService/dpPurlService/purl/FI19041221/00001
- Slide 6: Virginia Key Beach Park Trust - http://dpanther.fiu.edu/dpService/dpPurlService/purl/FIVK000083/00001
- Slide 7: Mile Markers - http://dpanther.fiu.edu/dpService/dpPurlService/purl/MM00004799/00001
- Slide 8: Coral Gables Memory Collection: http://dpanther.fiu.edu/dpService/dpPurlService/purl/FI12060905/00001
- Slide 9: Mile Markers Collection: http://dpanther.fiu.edu/dpService/dpPurlService/purl/MM00008259/00001
- Slide 10: City of Miami Beach Archives - http://dpanther.fiu.edu/dpService/dpPurlService/purl/MB17072415/00044
- Slide 11: Zoo Miami - http://dpanther.fiu.edu/dpService/dpPurlService/purl/FIZO002434/00001
- Slide 16: City of Miami Beach Archives - http://dpanther.fiu.edu/dpService/dpPurlService/purl/AA00000036/00001
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