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Digital Initiatives Newsletter, Issue 1

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Welcome to the first issue of Digital Initiatives, the newsletter of FIU Libraries’ Digital Collections and Institutional Repository (IR). This biannual newsletter will serve as a resource for FIU students and faculty to keep up-to-date with the latest projects, collections, and services available from the FIU Digital Collections Center.

Digital Collections
The goal of the Digital Collections Center is to build online collections of enduring value for the university and broader user community by identifying, digitizing, and preserving information resources of scholarly, educational, and civic interest. Collections include: The Miami Metropolitan Archive, Everglades Digital Library, Mile Markers, Coral Gables Memory, Tequesta Online, the Digital Library of the Caribbean, and many more.

Institutional Repository
The IR, FIU Digital Commons, is a repository for capturing, archiving, and disseminating the research, creative, and scholarly output of the Florida International University community. The Digital Collections Center works with departments, centers, and individual faculty to select, submit, manage, and preserve digital content in FIU Digital Commons. This includes technical reports, pre-publications, research papers, and presentations.

Accessing the Collections
The majority of the content served by the FIU Digital Collections Center is free and open to the public.

You may access these digital materials at http://digitalcollections.fiu.edu/ and in the IR at http://digitalcommons.fiu.edu/.

The center will be launching a copyright and intellectual property website in the coming months in order to provide information to the university community about user and author rights as well as FIU policies related to digital collections.

Services
Digital Commons offers a suite of services including FIU branded faculty webpage hosting (Selected Works), journal hosting and publishing services, collection building, as well as conference and event management and promotion.

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Partnerships
The Digital Collections Center continues to build partnerships within the FIU community, as well as externally, with local museums; municipalities; primary and secondary schools; colleges; and universities. The Center works to digitally disseminate and preserve the collections and intellectual property of these entities. Partners within the FIU community include, but are not limited to:

- College of Education
- Latin American and Caribbean Center
- Florida Coastal Everglades Long Term Ecological Network (FCE-LTER)
- Department of Biology
- Department of Biomedical Engineering
- Southeast Environmental Research Center (SERC)
- Disaster Risk Reduction Program
- School of International and Public Affairs
- Chaplain School of Hospitality & Tourism Management

The Digital Collections Center is committed to providing assistance to faculty and research groups in dissemination and long-term preservation of their research outcome as publications, technical reports, pre-publications, research papers, and presentations.

Everglades Explorer
by Bryan Cooper, Associate Dean of Technical and Digital Services

The FIU Libraries have launched Everglades Explorer, a portal providing broad access to “everything about the Everglades,” at http://ee.fiu.edu. The one-stop gateway integrates three systems, and searches across: Digital content of external libraries and databases; FIU’s award winning Everglades Digital Library (EDL), established in 1996; and select web sites maintained by Everglades related government and non-government agencies.

Everglades Explorer includes the “Xtensible Catalog” – an open source next-generation discovery system running on FIU servers. Developed at Rochester University, with input from Yale, Ohio State and Cornell Universities, the system is an affordable and scalable solution serving the needs of the larger Everglades community. The resulting local collection of metadata from diverse organizations results in a very fast search connecting users to historical books, government publications, photographs, maps, datasets and more. Initial contributors include Hathi Trust; US Geological Survey/SOFIA (South Florida Information Access); National Park Service; Florida Coastal Everglades Long Term Ecological Research (FCE-LTER); FIU GIS Center; State University System digital libraries and catalogs; and others.

The portal also includes full-text searching across content digitized and held by FIU; and there is an online reference service ‘Ask an Everglades Librarian’ – accessible directly at http://everglades.fiu.edu/. In addition, a customized Google API (application programming interface) provides focused searching across select partner sites and various Content Management Systems on the Web.

As an internal collaboration between FIU Libraries’ Cataloging, GIS/MIUS and Systems Departments, and the Digital Collections Center – Everglades Explorer will continue to grow unique content. Future collections will include materials geared towards programs such as the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Education Coalition.

http://ee.fiu.edu/

Everglades Explorer
Coral Gables Virtual History

A New Way of Exploring Digital Collections

Coral Gables Virtual History

Florida International University (FIU) has partnered with the City of Coral Gables to create a geospatially-enabled Virtual Historic City. With this tool, users may navigate to any point in the city at a selected time period (e.g., the Biltmore Hotel from the 1920s to 1940s), and experience the city as it was, through a wide variety of cultural artifacts and textual materials. A virtual walking tour of Coral Gables was also created, which includes an audio narration and 3D virtual tour providing the façade of historic buildings and landscape.

This digital archive will host digitized and rectified maps, architectural drawings, property parcels, and aerial photographs. Currently, over 8,000 historical items, mostly photographs, have been spatially registered to their relevant locations and time.

Users may discover content by performing a search in the search box, browsing a list of facets, choosing a time period with the sliding time bar, locating a point of interest on the map, and/or dragging historical maps to overlay them on a Google Maps interface.

Project partners include:

- City of Coral Gables, City Hall and the Coral Gables Historical Resources Department - since 2005
- Florida International University Digital Collections Center (DCC)
- Florida International University Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Center
- Florida International University Department of Landscape Architecture
- University of Florida Digital Collections (UFDC)

Coral Gables Virtual History beta site – The finished site will launch in 2014
Hospitality Review Goes Fully Online in

*FIU Digital Commons*

This spring, the Chaplin School of Hospitality & Tourism Management at FIU moved its longstanding publication *Hospitality Review* fully online through FIU’s Digital Commons. The journal has been in production since 1983. There are collectively 30 volumes produced on a myriad of trends and issues that are specific to the hospitality industry. All articles, 5 years and older, are now openly available online without a subscription through Digital Commons.

The *Hospitality Review* is an applied international journal focusing on academic perspectives centered on the development and operation of hospitality enterprises. The primary aim of the *Hospitality Review* is to promote the exchange of ideas between academics and practitioners on both theoretical and applied principles with the explicit purpose of contributing to the existing body of knowledge surrounding the hospitality industry.

The journal has been able to take advantage of the Digital Commons journal-publishing platform, which combines submission management and peer review tools. Submission, assignment of editors and reviewers, transmission of reviews and revisions, and publication occur fully online.

View the journal at [http://review.fiu.edu](http://review.fiu.edu)

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All South Florida Education Research Conference Proceedings Now Available through Digital Commons

This spring, FIU’s College of Education published the complete South Florida Education Research Conference Proceedings from the last 10 years through Digital Commons. In addition to archiving past proceedings, the College of Education will be taking advantage of the Digital Commons event management system, which allows the conference organizers to accept submissions, assign editors and reviewers, transmit reviews and revisions, as well as publish, all through the online system.

The purpose of the Annual South Florida Education Research Conference (SFERC) is to enhance the existing culture of research in colleges and universities in South Florida. The conference provides a meaningful vehicle for the preparation, mentorship, and presentation of scholarly work by students, faculty, and alumni.

View the full proceedings online at [http://digitalcommons.fiu.edu/sferc](http://digitalcommons.fiu.edu/sferc)
Collection Highlights

Western Hemisphere Security Analysis Center (WHEMSAC) at FIU’s Applied Research Center
This collection consists of 58 papers resulting from an academic partnership with the United States Southern Command (USSOUTHCOM), one of the ten Unified Combatant Commands in the United States Department of Defense, in charge of the design, coordination, and execution of military strategies that support U.S. national security objectives within the Western Hemisphere, particularly South and Central America and the Caribbean region.

http://digitalcommons.fiu.edu/whemsc

Florida Coastal Everglades LTER
This is a collection of research reports, published articles, theses and dissertations, and photographs that capture the mission of the project to investigate the impact of human activities, sea level rise, natural disturbances, and their interactions on the ecosystem and population dynamics of south Florida.

http://digitalcommons.fiu.edu/fce_lter

Undergraduate Honors Biology Theses Collection
The Department of Biology has digitized and electronically archived all undergraduate honors biology theses in Digital Commons. Students are now able to submit their theses directly to Digital Commons.

http://digitalcommons.fiu.edu/bio_honors

Department of Biomedical Engineering
This year the Department of Biomedical Engineering celebrated its 10-year anniversary and made available through Digital Commons all issues of the department newsletter Stats, along with a series of administrative documents to highlight the accomplishments of the department.

http://digitalcommons.fiu.edu/bme

Miami Metropolitan Archive
The Miami Metropolitan Archive is a digital library of important source materials relating to Miami-Dade County history, management, development, and culture. Originally developed as a cooperative effort of the Green Library at Florida International University Libraries, the City of Miami City Clerk's Office, and the Florida Center for Library Automation, the project now involves resources from diverse local agencies, organizations, and individuals including the Coral Gables Historical Resources Department, City of Miami Planning Department, FIU Professor Marvin Dunn, and more.

http://miami.fiu.edu/

Tequesta Online
Tequesta, the scholarly journal of the Historical Association of Southern Florida, has been published annually since 1941. It contains articles about the history of South Florida, especially of the Miami area, the Florida Keys and the Everglades. Time periods for topics range from pre-Columbian history to the late twentieth century. While most articles are scholarly studies, many first-person accounts also appear in the journal. The breadth and depth of the articles make Tequesta one of the best sources for the study of South Florida history.

http://digitalcollections.fiu.edu/tequesta/

Minutes of the Florida Internal Improvement Fund
This collection consists of digitized versions of the recorded proceedings of the Board of Trustees of Florida’s Internal Improvement Fund (IIF). This state government publication represents over a century of history chronicling development in Florida. The volumes in this collection span from Volume 1, 1855 to Volume 39, 1974.

http://digitalcollections.fiu.edu/iif/

FCE – LTER Image Collection
A collection of over 200 images from the project sites

http://digitalcollections.fiu.edu/fce_lter

FIU Photographic Archive
Over 60 images from the Charles Perry Archive digitized in collaboration with the FIU Libraries Special Collections department.

http://digitalcollections.fiu.edu/whemsac
Coral Gables Memory

493 new photographs have been added to the Coral Gables Memory collection from the archive of the City of Coral Gables Historical Resources Department.

Usage & Audience

The Digital Collections Center tracks access of content in order to inform collection development decisions as well as dissemination and promotion of the collections. With an average of over 2 million hits per year, the collections have a broad international user base.

3,426
Number of new records created this year.

1,943,084
Number of times the collections have been accessed this year so far.

Questions?

If you have any questions about the projects mentioned in this issue, would like to know more about the material held in the digital collections, or are interested in contributing to the IR or other digital collections, please contact:

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Everglades Digital Library
726 new items have been added and are in process.