

Report of the  
**Information & Technology (IT), Academic Libraries, & Special Libraries  
Special Interest Groups (SIG)**

ACURIL XLI – May 30 - June 4, 2011, Tampa, FL

**Co-Chairs, IT SIG– Judith Rogers (University of the Virgin Islands), &  
Laurie Taylor (University of Florida)**

The first meeting of the IT SIG held was held, Tuesday, May 31, 2011. The session consisted of a tour of the University of South Florida (USF) Library and workshop at the USF Special & Digital Collections department. The session was sponsored by Mark Greenberg, Head of Special & Digital Collections and staff of the department.

The event attracted considerable interest among Acurileans. Sign-up sheet was capped at 28 participants. However, additional persons showed up to board the busses at departure time. Consequently, there were at least 10-15 persons who signed up but could not be accommodated on the busses. We apologize to anyone who was disappointed due to the limited space.

The tour conducted by Barbara Lewis and Richard Bernardy, staff of USF Special & Digital Collections unit, began with a visit to the technical services and preservation area. Participants were given demonstrations by the staff of the Preservation Unit, showing various preservation techniques, including de-acidification of maps and encapsulation of the same. The tour also included a view of the learning commons and hub of activity within the Starbucks café, and a visit to the student general computing lab and classroom computer lab.

At the Special Collections area, participants were shown the collection of children's literature and documents related to the cigar industry of the 1890s among other resources available for historical research.

In the Digital Collections area, a variety of scanners for digitization were demonstrated. This included the Copi-Book scanner which is very beneficial for scanning bound and newspaper format documents. Here the participants had an opportunity for hands-on testing of this equipment. Also in this area, participants learned about the process for handling oral history recordings, from transcription and editing to final presentation. It was interesting to learn how labor intensive this process is, a 20-minute oral history recording could take as long as 10 hours from transcription to presentation.

The tour concluded with a demonstration of OPIE, the software used for accessing oral history recordings and related meta-data and descriptive information. After gaining and understanding of the preparation process for oral recordings, it was interesting to get the end-user perspective as these resources are made available for research.

The next IT-SIG meeting is scheduled for 1:30pm today. The final report will be submitted following that session.

The IT-SIG thanks Mark Greenberg and the staff of the Special & Digital Collections at USF, and all the presenters and participants for their interest and participation in the meetings of ACURIL XLI. We especially thank Brooke Wooldridge, FIU, for arranging transportation and translating during the session, Erik Toussaint, FOKAL, Haiti; and Lillian Semeleer, Aruba National Library, for translating. We look forward to continued participation of members in IT-

SIG events, and invite your recommendations for topics and your offers to present in the online format throughout the year.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Judith V. Rogers, & Laurie Taylor  
Co-Chairs, Information Technology SIG