



Chapter One

For Friends of the George A. Smathers Libraries, University of Florida

Spring 2000

The Digital Library Center “The Global Library”

In January 1967, science-fiction author Arthur C. Clarke predicted that by the year 2000 artificial intelligence and a global library would be developed. We are happy to report part of that vision is becoming a reality in this information age with the establishment of the Digital Library Center (the Center) at the George A. Smathers Libraries.

“It’s a way of getting the library to anybody at any time...”

– Erich Kesse

Listening to Erich Kesse, Director of the Center, and his staff describe projects in progress, it is easy to catch their infectious enthusiasm for the University of Florida’s “global library.” Established in July 1999, the Center converts books, photographs, tape recordings and film to electronic media, accessible by the Internet. Anyone with a web browser will be able to access books and historical materials that formerly were available only within Smathers Libraries collections or on microfilm.

“It’s a way of getting the library to anybody at any time from their

home or office or on the road or in a classroom miles away,” explains Kesse.

When the Center’s resource server is up and running, these images and documents will be fully accessible by anyone at any time. Until then, readers may access their web site for more information at <http://web.uflib.ufl.edu/dlc/>

According to Kesse, materials are chosen to be digitized for several reasons: to free items from formats difficult to use; to free items from the libraries’ limited hours; to enhance classroom education; and to make items more readily useful without travel. For example, the Libraries’ collection of French revolutionary pamphlets are no longer available in France, but European scholars will not have to board a transatlantic flight to peruse these documents. They will have access via the Internet.

To date, most of the materials scanned have come from microfilm or special collections, with some coming from general collections. How quickly additional materials will become digitized in the future

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Calling card for 19th century actress Miss Camille Clifford, Davidson Bros., London.

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Digital Library Center

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will largely depend upon the procurement of additional funding. It is an expensive undertaking, so the value of a source document – whether assessed on the basis of the monetary value, or research or educational value – must be equal to the cost incurred. Fortunately, there has been initial funding from some visionary benefactors to get the Center off to a good start.

The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation provided funding for digitizing to free highly valued, unique and much sought after Caribbean newspapers from the limits of microfilm reader machinery and the limited hours of the microform center.

Special collections were selected with State University System funding to make more materials about Florida's heritage available outside the Department of Special and Area Studies Collections. This work will be seen by people across the state and the world who may not otherwise have access to the Libraries.

From general collections, the staff has scanned course supplement materials that are out of copyright. Many of the items have been too brittle to handle, thus making them impossible for students to access.

The Smathers Libraries' Digital Library Center has taken a leadership role in the Florida Heritage

Project, a cooperative project of the State University System libraries, to digitize valuable Florida history and culture resources. The web site, planned for public launch in June 2000, will hold books, pictures and periodicals relevant to the state's history, arts, culture, and sciences.

A number of other projects are either underway or recently completed. The Great Floridians project will make available the papers of some of Florida's eminent statesmen and the Florida Natural Heritage project will make available information on Florida ecosystems.

Children's literature, including 19th century editions of Daniel Defoe's *Robinson Crusoe*, will be used to show how children were taught independence and social behaviors.

Until the hiring of two additional employees, Kesse, along with Eve Bressette and Maureen Kelly strive to complete their projects. Each brings varied background knowledge and skills to complement the overall team effort.

Kesse was Head of the Smathers Libraries Preservation Department for 12 years and spent four years as a rare book cataloger. He holds a Bachelors degree in Philosophy

and English Literature from Xavier University, a Masters of Library Science degree from the University of Kentucky and completed post graduate studies at Columbia University.

From graphics and printing to digitizing, Bressette has done a little



The Digital Library Center staff (from left): Eve Bressette, Maureen Kelly, Erich Kesse and Kathy Connor.

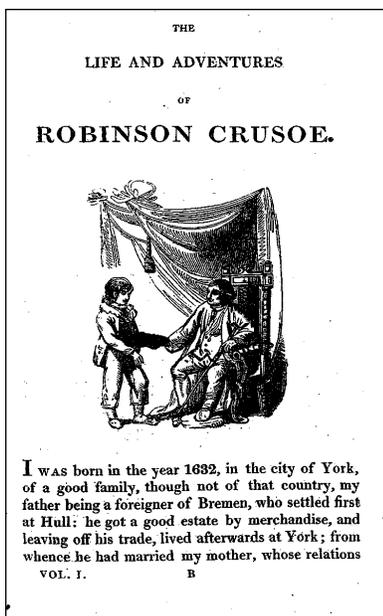
of everything in her three years at the Smathers Libraries in the Facilities and Planning Department and currently with the Center. She attended Springfield Technical Community College.

Kelly brings her technical skills gained as a student assistant scanning books at the Center and microfilm quality control in the Preservation Department. A computer science graduate student, she earned her Bachelor's degree from the University of Florida in Mathematics.

Kathy Connor rounds out the staff by dividing her time as secretary between the Center and the Preservation Department.

With the anticipation of additional digitizing equipment, new projects out for funding, and added employees, the Center staff looks toward to the future with a zeal for this new wave of librarianship – "the global library."

Suggestions for partnerships and grant opportunities for the Digital Library Center are invited by Kesse who may be reached at dlc@mail.uflib.ufl.edu or (352) 846-0129. ~



Page from 19th century edition of Daniel Defoe's *Robinson Crusoe*.

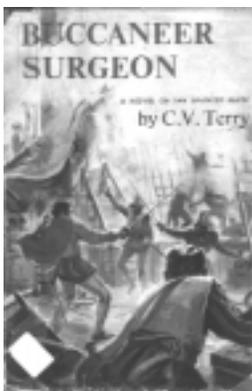
From Chuluota to Gainesville and beyond:

Libraries acquire Mickler's Books

by James Cusick
Curator, Florida History Collections

Every bibliophile in Florida is acquainted with the name Mickler's Books. Since it first opened in 1960 the bookstore — actually a mail-order business run from a rural wooden bungalow — has been a unique warehouse of Florida history. Its founders and owners, Thomas and Georgine Mickler, possessed the collector's passion for accumulation and the historian's acumen of what was significant and important in the written and printed word.

For nearly four decades their home at Chuluota, nestled by the quiet waters of Lake Catherine, was the Mecca for many a book buying pilgrimage. Librarians, university professors, and book lovers from all walks of life negotiated the back roads of Seminole County in quest of a house called "Florida Breezes" and its treasury



Jacket cover,
Frank Slaughter
publishing as
C. V. Terry.

of rare imprints. With the death of Thomas Mickler in March 1997 and of Georgine in early 1998, the surviving Mickler family members became the custodians of the largest private collection of Floridiana anywhere in the world. A new chapter for "Florida Breezes" was about to begin.

Bruce Chappell and I made numerous trips to "Florida Breezes" to pore over the estimated 30,000 item collection. Georgine, in her final requests, had asked her heirs to keep at least a portion of the book collection in Florida, housed at a library or university. Floor to ceiling shelving units occupied virtually all of the wall space, and every shelf was filled to capacity. Rows upon rows of books ran down the sides of the shotgun hallway, around the circuit of the dining room, through the living room, around a small parlor where an enormous 10 drawer map case took the place of furnishings, and into closets and nooks.

The downstairs bedroom contained one full wall of rare and auto-graphed imprints, and there were pamphlets and manuscripts in the



Letter, February 2, 1901, from the mayor of Jacksonville, about a woman who "is not living the life she should."

bureaus, in the dressers, on the bed, and in stacks of boxes that snaked across the floor in a maze. At one side of the house, in a porch converted to office space, three large file cabinets held hundreds of rare newspapers in folders.

If ever there was a repository dedicated to the deliberate and painstaking arrangement of books, "Florida Breezes" was it. It didn't seem like the books had been added to the house; it seemed more like the house had been added to the books.

Upstairs, more books and journals filled shelves in the bedrooms. There were books stacked in the upstairs bathroom and more in the

(Continued on page 6)

Friends of the Libraries

Donations received by the Smathers Libraries between April 1999 and December 1999

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The Libraries of the University of Florida form the largest information resource system in the state of Florida. Eight campus libraries reflect the university's increasingly broad research and instruction programs. Over the past 100 years, faculty and librarians have built hundreds of specialized collections, now totaling over three and a half million volumes, printed in practically every written language by publishers throughout the world.

The George A. Smathers Libraries of the University of Florida include specialized collections in science, architecture, art, history, languages, and music. Our collections cover all areas of contemporary knowledge, from agriculture to zoology and from philosophy to history. All of the libraries serve all of the university's faculty and students, but each has a special mission to be the primary support of specific colleges and degree programs. The libraries support the very best educational, research and service performance by university faculty and students using the latest on-line technology and time-honored methods of collection and preservation.

For more information on giving to the George A. Smathers Libraries at the University of Florida contact Marcia O. Pearce, Director of Development, (352) 392-0342.

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Mickler's Books

Continued from page 3)

attic crawl space. There were more books in the outside shed.

Soon, other libraries were examining the collection, making the journey from the Universities of South Florida, North Florida, Florida Atlantic University. One point became more and more clear.

Everyone who saw the collection was interested in various parts of it. No one could take all of it. Any institution that acquired the Mickler's entire stock would be getting not one complete collection of Florida history, but ten.

In the fall of 1998 six universities formed a library cooperative which included the University of Florida, and negotiated to buy a portion of the Mickler's collection.

The day of the sale will certainly pass into the annals of family and library folklore. Probably no dance ever invented was as complex in its choreography as the ballet performed in that little house. Outside,

vans and cars had converged on the premises like a SWAT team. When all the principals had assembled, the cast of participants was nearly the size of *Les Miserables*: 20 librarians, 10 family members, two kids, and a dog – all intent on pulling books, pricing books, boxing up books, over and over again, until the first floor was an ant-farm of activity.

By the end of the day, most people were bleary-eyed, and few were finished. Even now, almost a year later, I continue to marvel at the astounding assortment of materials that came to the University of Florida through this once-in-a-lifetime event.

Altogether, the Department of Special and Area Studies Collections acquired some 450 books, maps, and newsletters, and more than one hundred individual letters and pieces of memorabilia.

In scope, the new acquisitions run the gamut from engaging and fanciful to historic and unique. In fiction, new arrivals included two early novels by Frank Slaughter, published



Illustration in ink, Alexander Murray ships journal, 1866.

under the pseudonym C.V. Terry, as well as classic tales by Kirk Munro, James Otis, James Fenimore Cooper, and Archibald Clavering Gunter. More than 100 maps were added to the Florida historic map collection, including 34 U.S. Coast Survey maps. Newspapers obtained from Mickler's contain important accounts of early

A complete list, with color photos, of the University of Florida's acquisitions will be available on the P.K. Yonge Library of Florida history web page. See <http://web.uflib.ufl.edu/spec/pkyonge/newax2.html>

Florida history, including letters and editorials about the progress of the Patriots War (1812-1814) and the Second Seminole War (1835-1842). Among the items that will become part of the library's *Miscellaneous Manuscript Collection* are an 1866 illustrated journal of Alexander Murray, naval officer, and two Civil War letters recording the experiences of Union soldiers in Jacksonville.

Other universities also obtained important additions to their collections. From Jacksonville to Charlotte Harbor, the legacy of Mickler's Books will live on at university libraries, to the delight of all interested in Florida history. ~

(Excerpted from The Howe Society Newsletter, Fall 1999)

Smathers Libraries Bookstore seeks donations

Donations of materials are requested for the Smathers Libraries Bookstore, operated by the Gifts and Exchange Unit. The cash-only store opened in July, 1999 on the first floor of Smathers Library and is stocked with donated books and other items not selected for the collections.

Proceeds support the libraries and are tax-deductible. Every donor receives a letter of acknowledgement that includes a simple description of the donation. Such letters are considered official

receipts by the IRS unless the gift's value exceeds \$5,000. Information about gift policy is available on the Gifts and Exchange web site at <http://web.uflib.ufl.edu/ge/> Use this web address for e-mail contacts as well, or call (352) 392-0355 for additional information.

Books on all subjects, vinyl records, cassette tapes and old UF yearbooks may be delivered to the Gifts and Exchange Unit on the second floor of Smathers Library or call for pickup.

Desiderata

Students, faculty and librarians are always looking for the perfect resource to complement their research. While we do our best to be responsive to special needs, there are always a few titles or equipment needs that lie beyond our grasp. If you are interested in helping the Smathers Libraries acquire any of the following, please contact Marcia O. Pearce, Director of Development, at (352) 392-0342.

Architecture & Fine Arts Library:

Gardner's Art Through the Ages: \$775

Two DVD Players: \$1,000 each

Mark Twain (Oxford), 29 volumes: \$500

Electronic versions of *Siku Quanshu* (Complete Classic Library in Four Divisions — the “si ku”). Chinese University of Hong Kong, full-text version. To be published in five years, periodic upgrades, a web forum, quarterly newsletter and technical support: \$11,050

Online Palmer's Index to the [London] Times: \$600

Anchor Bible Dictionary on CD-ROM: \$225

Science of the Total Environment: \$3,828

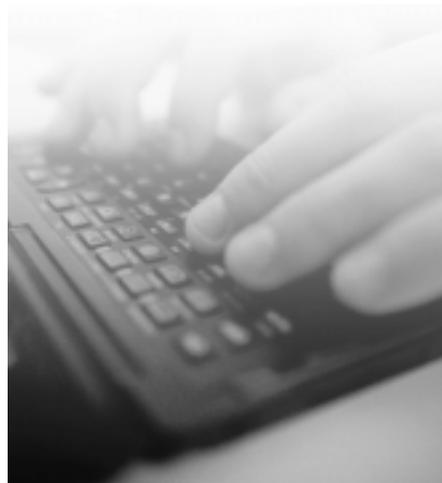
UF Engineering & Industrial Experiment Station Publications Preservation: \$7,000

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Please send me information
about making a planned gift/bequest.

A message from the director

In this issue of Chapter One, we thank our donors from the past year and tell you where some of those donations went. Some of the books, newspapers and maps acquired from Mickler's Books are the result of unrestricted donations that we received. We are also giving you an overview of our new Digital Library initiative.

The UF libraries own nearly 3.5 million books and journals. We are the 39th largest among research university libraries in the US and Canada. But increasingly, the number of materials in print format does not really measure our strength. Expenditures for electronic information have risen to about 10% of our resources budget and we have found that electronic information isn't just a new medium, but a new way of doing business.

In 1985, virtually every item in our collections consisted of print on paper or microfilm. A few years later, Smathers Libraries began to purchase general cita-

tion indexes in CD-ROM format. The CD's were inserted into stand-alone computers and used by one student at a time. By the early 90's, we were investing in servers and networks so that the CD's could be used by up to 20 students on library computers. By the mid-90's, the Internet became available, and we assigned two librarians to work on our webpage.

By 1995, we were purchasing research level citation databases that we downloaded into mainframe computers on campus and made available to students from any local or remote computer that could access the mainframe. And by 1996, we began to purchase access to electronic information that remained on host computers elsewhere in the world. Since then, many more databases have been added.

To make electronic information more accessible to students, we used grants from the Athletic Association's pay-per-view football games and the Florida Center for Library Automation to purchase public

computers that were installed in the libraries. In 1997, our electronic catalog became a web catalog, using Internet search protocols.

By this time we began to digitize materials unique to the University of Florida. Building on our experience, we are beginning to digitize reserve materials for classes that students can read from home. The access to these electronic information products is through the Library's web page which receives about one million "hits" per month.

The UF libraries are rising to the challenge and are investing considerable effort in contributing to the amount of digital information available. I hope you will enjoy reading about our digital library initiative.

Dale B. Canelas
Director of University Libraries



GEORGE A. SMATHERS LIBRARIES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

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