Cover Letter: Update on the Development of the Digital Collections of Cuban Heritage, September 2018

In 2016, the Smathers Libraries announced its partnership with the Biblioteca Nacional de Cuba José Martí (BNJM) to create broad and deep open access to digital collections of Cuban materials. Under the 2016 agreement, the University of Florida and the BNJM initially identified four major projects for the development and exchange of digital content from and about Cuba:

- Cuban monographs;
- Cuban journals and newspapers;
- Cuban legal materials (being developed under the direction of LLMC-Digital); and
- Maps of Cuba

The BNJM will serve as advisor to each project and contribute digitized copies of materials not held elsewhere. Once digitized, these sources will be available to all participating libraries and to users worldwide interested in studying and researching the history, literature and culture of Cuba. The digital collection will be available at BNJM and through Cuba Digital Collection (http://www.ufdc.ufl.edu/CUBA) which is part of the Digital Library of the Caribbean (dLOC). Digital files will also be available to partner institutions who wish to locally host materials.

As is often the case with such initiatives, some additional projects have been added since 2016. Among these are:

- Development of Cuba Libro, a database to manage the bibliographic records associated with the various projects and track the partner commitments for contributing the digital content;
- Establishing an OCLC symbol (BNCJM) for the Biblioteca Nacional and loading its records into WorldCat;
- Signing a Convenio with the Fundación Antonio Núñez Jiménez para el hombre y la naturaleza (http://www.fanj.org) to include digitized content from its collections;
- Creating a Center of Excellence for U.S. Government publications about Cuba as part of the ASERL Collaborative Federal Depository Program; and
- Scanning publications related to Judaism in Cuba, the Caribbean and Latin America from the library of the Synagogue Bet Shalom in Havana.

ARL and ASERL partner institutions include:

- Duke University
- Florida International University
- Library of Congress
- New York Public Library
- University of California, Los Angeles
- University of California, Riverside
- University of Miami
- University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

The attached document provides a brief status report on each project. Please contact the team for additional information on any of these initiatives – and to become a partner in this ambitious effort: CubaSteering@uflib.ufl.edu.
Digital Collections of Cuban Heritage

In 2016, the University of Florida expanded its historical collaboration with Cuban institutions by signing an agreement with the Biblioteca Nacional de Cuba José Martí (BNJM) to create broad and deep open access to Digital Collections of Cuban Heritage materials. The current status of this and related initiatives is provided below. If you are interested in learning more about specific initiatives or wish to participate in one or more of the projects, please contact CubaSteering@uflib.ufl.edu.

Materials from the Cuban Heritage initiatives are available at BNJM and through the Digital Collections of Cuban Heritage (www.ufdc.ufl.edu/CUBA) which is part of the Digital Library of the Caribbean. Digital files will also be available to partner institutions who wish to locally host materials. Specific current priority projects and links to digital collections for each one are below.

**Digital Collections of Cuban Heritage Initiatives as of September 2018**

**Cuban Newspapers and Periodicals**
www.ufdc.ufl.edu/cubanserials

The goal is to collaborate with international partners to identify and digitize serials, primarily newspapers and journals, published in Cuba for which we have or can secure the right/permission to reproduce and provide public access.

Collection highlights include important newspapers and magazines published in Cuba, including *Bohemia, Diario de la Marina*, and *Revista de Cayo Hueso*. We are working with partners to digitize *Carteles, El Crisol*, and *Prensa Libre*, and we will be expanding the collection to include other Cuban and Cuban exile newspapers. There are already 2,506 issues of the cultural magazine *Bohemia* available online and 1,900 additional issues will be online by the end of October (http://ufdc.ufl.edu/UF00029010/00001).

**Cuban Monographs**
www.ufdc.ufl.edu/cubanimp

The goal is to collaborate with international partners to identify and digitize Cuban imprints for which we have the right/permission to reproduce and provide public access. The scope includes all monographs published in Cuba, as well as the publications of important Cuban intellectuals published outside of Cuba. There are already 331 digitized monographs available online.

Embedded in the collection of Cuban monographs is a special collection of the works of Cuban Thinkers and Intellectuals whose works are being showcased to raise awareness and understanding of the evolution of Cuban thinking. These philosophers, scholars, clergy, scientists, and other intellectuals advocated new ideas and significantly influenced the development of Cuba, particularly in the 19th Century. They focused on social, political, economic, and cultural issues, and many were proponents of Cuban nationalism and independence from Spain. Several were interested in human rights and many, including Father Félix Varela, were abolitionists who had to publish in the United States because their
writings on slavery were contrary to Cuban policy. The works published outside of Cuba are included to document the full range of their ideas and influence. In addition to Father Varela, the leading Cuban thinkers represented in this collection include José Martí, José Antonio Saco, José de la Luz y Caballero, and Domingo Del Monte, among others. These volumes are part of the Cuban monographs collection, but also accessible as a separate collection (www.ufdc.ufl.edu/cubanthinkers). In the future, we would like to add works about these individuals for which we have the right/permission to reproduce and provide public access.

Cuban Judaica Materials
www.ufdc.ufl.edu/caribbeanjudaica

The goal is to collaborate with international partners to identify and digitize Jewish cultural heritage and historical materials published in Cuba or relating Judaism to Cuba. This initiative began with digitization of the publications of the Agrupación Cultural Hebreo-Cubana, a group that was founded by members of the Synagogue Bet Shalom in Havana. Prominent among its publications is Martí y Las Discriminaciones Raciales. The Agrupación also published the Catálogo de la Exhibición de Publicaciones Hebreas de Cuba and UF is digitizing all items listed in catalog.

In 2018, UF began a project with the Synagogue, which is part of the Patronato de la Casa de la Comunidad Hebrea de Cuba, to digitize materials from its library that have been identified as Cuban Judaica. The top priority is the unique and rare holdings of the library, which include the newspaper Vida Habanera (Habanera Lebn), the newspaper Israelia, and other community commemorative pamphlets and publications. A second phase of scanning will prioritize works published in Cuba relating to Jewish life in general or outside of Cuba.

Cuban Legal Materials (Cuban Legal Patrimony Project)
www.ufdc.ufl.edu/cubanlaw

The goal is to collaborate with international partners to identify and digitize Cuban legal materials, including Cuba’s constitutions, laws, statutes, and regulations. This project was initiated by LLMC-Digital (www.llmc.com) in 2016 in collaboration with UF. To date LLMC has identified over 1,000 titles for digitization and the collection already contains nearly half a million pages of Cuban legal content, including versions of Cuba’s numerous constitutions, a number of early treatises, and longer series like the Colección Legislativa. In addition to LLMC member libraries and other U.S.-based collaborators, the BNJM has agreed to assist in identifying and adding to the collection documents that cannot be sourced elsewhere. Once digitized these materials are available to users worldwide interested in studying and researching Cuba’s legal history.
Maps of Cuba
www.ufdc.ufl.edu/cubanmaps

The goal is to collaborate with international partners to identify and digitize maps of Cuba. The main geographic focus of the collection is the area now known as Cuba. Regional maps of the Gulf of Mexico, Caribbean, Antilles, and West Indies are also included. Maps of other geographic areas may also be included when Cuba is specifically depicted or implied. The collection includes over 400 maps from the 1700-1900s. Collection development will focus on maps of Cuba published or produced from 1500-1922, with maps published after 1922 considered if free from restrictions.

US Government Documents Relating to Cuba
www.ufdc.ufl.edu/cubancoe

The goal is to collaborate with international partners to identify, catalog, and digitize US government documents relating to Cuba. In 2017, UF agreed to serve as a Center of Excellence (COE) for the Collaborative Federal Depository Program managed by the Association of Southeastern Research Libraries. As the COE for Cuba, UF will catalog, preserve and make available both print and digital collections of all available U.S. government documents relating to Cuba, regardless of the publishing agency.

NOTE: Access to Catalog Records of the Biblioteca Nacional de Cuba José Martí (BNJM)

Over 135,450 catalog records from BNJM are now in OCLC WorldCat to enable global discovery, to facilitate the creation of a comprehensive bibliography of Cuban resources, and to assist efforts to identify unique BNJM holdings to prioritize for digitization. Over 97,000 of the records contributed to date show BNJM as the source of the cataloging record. UF contributed the records to OCLC and established the new “BNCJM” holding library code as a sublibrary of UF. At some future time, when BNJM is able to become an OCLC member, these records will be transferred to and managed by the BNJM, but currently the records include the holding location, “University of Florida BNCJM.” Interlibrary Loan is not available for these items, but the digital surrogates will become available for public access through these initiatives.