Welcome from the dean

Welcome to the fall semester! The University of Florida Libraries are here to assist you with your research and course materials as we serve every faculty member and student at the university, on and off-campus, in every discipline that is taught and every field in which we do research. Increasingly this is done through collaboration and consortial licensing with other Florida universities.

To meet the high demand and support the university’s students, faculty and staff, UF Libraries have formed the largest information resource system in the state of Florida with 5.6 million print volumes, 7.9 million microfilms, 453,000 e-books, 158,695 full-text electronic journals and 1,162 electronic databases.

I often hear that libraries are less important now that “everything” is online. Nothing could be farther from the truth. It is true that we now spend over 70% of our materials budget acquiring online resources – e-books, e-journals, and databases – so the information is available to our faculty, staff and students 24 hours a day, whether or not the libraries are open. But there is still significant demand for print materials – and heavy traffic in our libraries. Last year we had over three million visitors. Attendance has been growing, not declining.

As part of our move to more and more electronic access, particularly to the scholarship from our own faculty and researchers, the University of Florida is developing an open access policy that will be presented to the Faculty Senate for approval this fall.

Open Access (OA) is freely available, permanent, web-based access to scholarly publications. OA is based on the principle that research should be readily available immediately after publication to anyone with an Internet connection. It is improving the way scholarly information is shared and preserved.

The University of Florida has established an Open Access Publishing (UFOAP) Fund to support the goal of making UF research findings immediately, freely and globally available. When money is not available from other sources, the fund will assist UF authors by paying reasonable article processing fees for publishing in open access journals and for a portion of paid access fees charged by other publishers. The fund is administered by the libraries. Please see the article on page 3 for details and visit the website at http://www.uflib.ufl.edu/oa.

Let us know how we can better serve you. We look forward to the challenge of improving library services for UF’s academic programs. Please contact me with your comments at jrussell@ufl.edu.

Judith C. Russell
Dean of University Libraries
Faculty time is at a premium with increased class size with limited assistance. Instructors can find some relief by utilizing online technology coupled with electronic library resources to teach research and critical thinking skills while also engaging students and providing them with basic information literacy skills.

The Provost e-learning Initiative (http://www.at.ufl.edu/provostinitiative/) courses have been a pilot program to integrate online library content and media tools into online classes, and can serve as a model for other courses with an online presence.

**Course guides**

Library subject specialists develop course web sites for specific classes by collaborating with teaching faculty. These course guides (e.g., http://guides.uflib.ufl.edu) can include readings and virtual bookshelves, access to vetted web sites and databases, assignments and other resources the librarian is able to connect to course content. Library resources can be integrated with the e-learning materials of any course. These web guides can:

- Provide students with a starting point for ideas and research
- Give customized information for assignments for more efficient use of student time
- Be available to students 24/7
- Require very little time on the part of the faculty
- Be available to faculty at no cost

**Electronic resources**

Subject specialists can recommend databases, readings and other resources for student research and assignments. For example, the digital image library ARTstor was used by students to analyze famous works and create their own virtual exhibits of primary materials. Such resources can increase student interest in the assignment and reduce reliance upon expensive publisher materials.

Library resources can easily be added to one assignment or an entire course to help supplement the teaching and learning process. To find out more, faculty can contact their subject specialist (http://apps.uflib.ufl.edu/staffdir/SubjectSpecialist.aspx).

**Media tools**

Media equipment such as video cameras can be useful for blended courses with “performance” aspects (e.g., monologue or dance). Students in a recent Provost-funded course captured performances with digital video cameras. With these resources:

- Student time is used efficiently with videos they create on their own schedule
- Comfort level for students improves when using video that can be re-shot to correct mistakes
- Students can critique their own work and the work of others

Flip Mino cameras are available for three-day checkout from several libraries on campus (http://www.uflib.ufl.edu/librarywest/using_flipvideocameras.html). Students can upload video to YouTube or Vimeo for their groups and instructors to view.

Spanish archivists visit UF Libraries

As part of a University of Florida Faculty Enhancement Opportunity award to further cooperation between the libraries’ Department of Special & Area Studies Collections and colleagues in Spanish institutions, two distinguished archivists from Spain spent the week of May 22 through May 29 on campus meeting with Smathers Libraries’ deans, directors and others. Focus was on possible digital grant projects, exchanges of students, faculty and research.

These visits were the second part of a three-pronged effort. In July 2009 UF Latin American Collection Head Librarian Richard Phillips visited several institutions in Spain to meet key contacts and re-initiate collaboration, and the Latin American Collection Operations Librarian Paul Losch visited Spain in May to further institutional relations.

Richard Phillips

Head, Latin American Collection

Jennifer Smith

Instructional Designer, UF Center for Instructional Technology and Training

Marilyn Ochoa

Assistant Head, Education Library

Latin American Collection Operations Librarian Paul Losch, right, working with one of the Spanish archivists during their visit.
University of Florida’s Open Access Publishing (UFOAP) Fund

Recognizing the growing global need and support for open access to research findings, the University of Florida Libraries in cooperation with the Provost’s Office has created an Open Access Publishing Fund pilot project to assist UF authors. By funding reasonable article processing fees for open access journals ($3,000 limit) and a portion of paid-access fees charged by commercial publishers to provide open access ($1,500 limit), this fund will facilitate free and enduring access to UF’s research.

UFOAP funds are intended to support open access to research articles where publication fees are not available through grant funding. In order to encourage inclusion of publication fees in future grant applications, articles resulting from funded grants that allow for budgeting of article processing fees are excluded unless the grant application was submitted prior to the establishment of the UFOAP. Any UF faculty, post-doctoral researcher, staff member or student author may request up to $3,000 per year to pay for article-processing fees for peer-reviewed research articles. Payments will be made directly to the publisher upon application and invoice submittal. Specific funding criteria are given in the fund guidelines, along with the application, viewable at www.uflib.ufl.edu/oa.

Institutional Repository

Requestors receiving funding through this project are expected to submit a post-review, final draft of the article to UF’s institutional repository, IR@UF; (http://www.uflib.ufl.edu/ufir) at the time of funding. The IR@UF is the digital archive for the intellectual output of the University of Florida community, with research, news, outreach and educational materials.

The University of Florida Libraries established and supports the IR@UF in order to offer a central location for the collection, preservation and dissemination of scholarly, research, and creative production alongside historical materials from the University of Florida on the history, nature and culture of the university.

The effectiveness of this pilot project will be reviewed at the end of 18 months.

Open Access Week 2010

The libraries will host “Open Access Week” on October 18-22, 2010.

Libraries’ lost item replacement policy

To ensure that items owned by the libraries are available to patrons, the George A. Smathers Libraries attempts to quickly replace each item lost by patrons with an exact copy, an updated edition of the title or a similar title. The libraries do not refund replacement costs for items that are returned after replacement copies are ordered and overdue fines related to lost items are not refundable if the book is subsequently returned.

Specific fines and fees are delineated at http://www.uflib.ufl.edu/ps/Circ/lost.htm.

Supporter membership in BioMed Central announced

The George A. Smathers Libraries announces a supporter membership in BioMed Central, a STM (Science, Technology and Medicine) publisher using an open access model. All peer-reviewed research articles published by BioMed Central are made freely and permanently accessible online immediately upon publication. BioMed Central journals are listed at http://www.biomedcentral.com/browse/journals/.

All UF authors are given a 15% discount on the article processing charge (APC) when they publish in a BioMed Central, Chemistry Central or PhysMath Central journal. In addition, SpringerOpen, a forthcoming series of open access journals, will also honor the same 15% discount on their publications. The first titles will be open to receive submissions soon and start publishing in early 2011.

For more information, contact Dr. Isabel Silver at isilver@ufl.edu or (352) 273-2524.

NEW databases

New databases are listed on the “Electronic Resources at the University of Florida” guide at http://guides.uflib.ufl.edu/eresources. Click on the NEW DATABASES tab.
Library grant awards

The UF Libraries’ faculty and staff continue to build on successful grant-seeking activities. Recent awards include the following:

Planning for Florida’s Health: A Statewide Process for Re-inventing Academic Health Sciences Library Collaboration, an award from the National Network of Libraries of Medicine. The $6,000 award funds a one-year project which aims to complete a strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats survey (SWOT) and a collaborative plan for leveraging statewide assets while eliminating duplication of effort/services with these medical/health academic library partners: FAU, FIU, FSU, Nova Southeastern, UM, UCF and USE. The project lead and PI is Cecilia Botero, associate dean and director, Health Science Center Libraries.

The UF Center for the Humanities and the Public Sphere (Rothman Funds) has awarded a $5,000 Library Enhancement Grant in the Humanities, to acquire the print back issues of the bibliographic annual publication on sinology published by Kyoto University. The project team consists of David Hickey, head of the Asian Studies Collection, with UF scholars Dr. Sean Macdonald and Dr. Richard G. Wang.

And finally, the UF Center for African Studies (CAS) has received notification of a four-year U.S. Department of Education Title VI award which includes $120,000 for the libraries. The award budget, pending final approval from CAS, will provide $20,000 for library outside professional services personnel, $60,000 for acquisitions, $16,000 in library collection enhancements, $16,000 for digitization and $8,000 in consortial library projects. The project team consists of Dan Reboussin, head of the African Studies Collection and Laurie Taylor, interim director of the Digital Library Center.

Bess de Farber
Grants Manager

Course reserves

During times of shrinking departmental and university budgets, Electronic Reserves can offer faculty a cost-effective alternative to course packets and other expensive course materials. Utilizing the ARES reserve system, faculty can place a variety of materials for courses online for students to access. These materials include hard copy books, DVDs and videos, as well as scanned chapters of books and links to electronic journal articles. The only limitation placed on reserve materials is that all electronic chapters must comply with current copyright policies, which is the lesser of one chapter or ten percent of a book. Faculty are encouraged to utilize course reserves to provide students with quick and easy access to materials.

Course reserves features a new component for the fall semester. Electronic Reserves is now offering streaming video for selected film-studies courses. Streaming video allows students to access material at their leisure. If faculty members think their course might be a candidate for streaming video, please contact the reserves department at (352) 273-2520.

To learn more about Electronic Reserves, faculty can sign up for training on the following dates and times. No registration is required.

August 23, 30
Library West Room 211 (9:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m.)

August 26, September 2
Library West Room 211 (2:00-3:00 p.m.)

Faculty members unable to attend one of the training sessions can view online video tutorials at: https://ares.uflib.ufl.edu/videos.html. For more information, contact Electronic Reserves at eres@uflib.ufl.edu or (352) 273-2520.

Ryan Litsey
Access Support

Interlibrary loan materials now arrive even faster

The University of Florida Libraries is now a member of RapidILL, a unique interlibrary resource sharing system for journal articles which includes 174 libraries. The software that runs RapidILL was designed specifically for resource sharing, including automatic processing, routing and load leveling. With the implementation of RapidILL, patrons experience faster interlibrary loan service. Since members agree to provide a 24-hour turnaround, patrons can expect to receive an article with 24-48 hours after the request is made.

The RapidILL database is unmatched in depth of indexing. Most ILL databases index only to the journal title level, but RapidILL matches to the year level. Holdings are updated on a six-month cycle. To learn more about RapidILL, please take a look at the guide to see which requests can qualify for RAPID delivery.

http://guides.uflib.ufl.edu/

Ryan Litsey
Access Support
Library faculty promotions

**Vernon Kisling**  
*University Librarian*

Vernon Kisling is the chair of Marston Science Library and is responsible for collections in environmental sciences and history of science. He has been with UF for 23 years and previously was curator at the Miami and Atlanta Zoos, where he worked with many endangered species and conservation projects in Florida and Georgia. He has also done wildlife fieldwork in Papua New Guinea and Chile. His research interest is the history of zoos/wildlife conservation/natural history. Kisling has written a book entitled *Zoo and Aquarium History: Ancient Animal Collections to Zoological Gardens.*

**Paul Losch**  
*Associate University Librarian*

Paul Losch is the operations librarian for the UF Latin American Collection. A gifted linguist, he provides thoughtful leadership in the collection’s busy workplace; his innovative and creative ideas contribute to the library’s participation in exhibits and special projects. Notable examples of this are his liaison role with the Panama Canal Museum, and his active role in the UF chapter of Phi Beta Kappa. Losch is preparing a research manuscript of the history of Latin American Studies at UF, with next year to be the 80th anniversary of founding of the UF Center for Latin American Studies.

**John Nemmers**  
*Associate University Librarian*

John Nemmers is the descriptive and technical services archivist in the Department of Special and Area Studies Collections. In this position, which he has held since 2003, he is responsible for all arrangement and description activities, including processing archival collections and authoring collection guides. He manages historical collections pertaining to architecture, landscape design, Florida politics and environmental science. He currently directs two multi-year grant-funded projects at UF to digitize historical collections relating to the Everglades and to St. Augustine architecture. Since 2005, he has served as steering committee chair for “Opening Archives in Florida,” a grant-funded training program to provide free or inexpensive archival education in the state. He also serves as co-instructor of an archival internship course for undergraduate history majors. Nemmers holds an MLS and a specialist degree in archives and special collections librarianship from Florida State University. He served as president of the Society of Florida Archivists in 2009-2010.

**Marilyn N. Ochoa**  
*Associate University Librarian*

Marilyn N. Ochoa is the assistant head of the Education Library and is responsible for supporting research and instructional needs of faculty and students in the College of Education and its affiliated programs. She provides information literacy instruction and builds specialized collections in special education, counselor education, educational psychology, teaching and learning programs, and educational policy and administration. Ochoa is library liaison to the campus-wide Provost’s e-Learning Initiative and teaches a research methods course through the UF Honors Program. On the national level, she chairs the Association of College & Research Libraries’ (ACRL) government relations committee which drafts the annual ACRL legislative agenda. Prior to her current position, she served as the Smathers Libraries’ digital services librarian, leading development and coordination of computing areas in Library West and web activities for the humanities and social sciences department. She has numerous publications and presentations on such topics as usability and user access to information. Her expertise in these areas is sought for major digital projects, such as the grant-funded From the Air: Florida Photography digital collection.
Special Collections EXHIBITS

Department of Special and Area Studies Collections
Smathers Library second floor gallery
Open Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 4:45 p.m.

ARTBOUND
Exhibition of Artists’ Books from the First Annual Juried Student Book Arts Competition at the UF Libraries
September 1 - October 1, 2010
Opening Reception September 8, 10:00 a.m. - noon

What are artists’ books? The most important element in defining an artists’ book probably stems from a book’s motivation. The intent (or motivation) of an artists’ book is the expression of an artistic vision as opposed to a literary or informational purpose; they are themselves a form of art.

ARTBOUND features contemporary works by students making books in book arts and/or fine arts programs across the United States. The exhibited works have been selected by jurors from UF Libraries and the School of Art and Art History. These artists’ books will become part of the permanent collection at The University of Florida George A. Smathers Libraries. The jurors selected between 30 and 40 high quality, original handmade artists’ books created using a variety of media, for example: letterpress printing, intaglio, inkjet, screen printing, paint, and collage.

A companion exhibit will be in the display cases inside the Special Collections Research Room on the 2nd floor of Smathers Library. POP: Books as Exploration of Design, Math & Text, created by design students at St. Petersburg College’s Department of Fine and Applied Arts.

The Art of the Book: Binding, Illustration, Typography
October 8 - December 17, 2010

This exhibit will focus on the artistic aspects of a book rather than the text. Display cases will feature leather tooling of covers and the evolution of 19th century publishers’ book bindings, examples of fore-edge painting, wood blocks and wood cut illustrations, early and fine press printing, and typography styles.

Join the Pay for Performance Football Challenge!
Support the Friends of the George A. Smathers Libraries with a pledge today and become a member!

Friends of the Libraries

Yes, I support the University of Florida Libraries!
I want to join the Friends of the George A. Smathers Libraries at the following level:

- $15 Student Friend
- $25 Book Friend
- $50 Friend
- $125 Contributing Friend
- $250 Book Friend
- $500 Librarian’s Friend
- $1000+ Dean’s Circle

I would like to use my annual membership in the following:
- The Howe Society
- Stewards of Florida History
- OR
- Smathers Libraries Purchase Fund
- Special & Area Studies Collections
- Latin American Collection
- Price Library of Judaica
- African Studies Collection
- Asian Studies Collection
- P.K. Yonge Library of Florida History
- Baldwin Library of Historical Children’s Literature
- Popular Cultures Collection
- Rare Books
- Manuscripts
- University Archives
- Architecture & Fine Arts Library
- Education Library
- Health Science Center Libraries
- Humanities & Social Sciences Library (Library West)
- Journalism & Communications Library
- Map & Imagery Library
- Music Library
- Marston Science Library
- Digitization of UF Collections
- Preservation
- Other

I want to leave a legacy:
- Please send information about making a planned gift/bequest
- I would like to know how to create a library endowment
- I would like to learn more about charitable annuity in my estate planning
- I would like to include the University of Florida Libraries in my bequest

Name __________________________
Address __________________________________________
City __________________________ State __ Zip ___________
Home Phone __________________________ Business Phone ___________

Method of Payment:
☑ I have enclosed a check payable to the UFF/Friends of the Libraries

Employees of the University of Florida may wish to take advantage of the payroll deduction process to provide their level of support.
☑ Check here for payroll deduction.

Please mail form to the Office of Development, University of Florida, George A. Smathers Libraries, PO Box 117000, Gainesville, FL 32611-7000
To make a gift with a credit card, please call the UF Foundation’s Gift Processing toll-free number: 1-877-351-2377 OR fill in the information below and mail directly to UF Foundation, Gift Processing Department, P.O. Box 14425, Gainesville, FL 32604-2425.

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Your donation may be eligible for a charitable contribution deduction.
For more information contact Samuel Huang at (352) 273-2505 or Huang888@ufl.edu.

Thank you for your support!
Isabel Silver – New director of academic and scholarly outreach

Dr. Isabel D. Silver is the new director of academic and scholarly outreach at the George A. Smathers Libraries. With 30 years of administrative and managerial background in public education – in both libraries and higher education, she has a wealth of experience to strengthen academic and scholarly outreach at UF.

Silver will provide leadership, direction and planning for a coordinated outreach effort to the campus community in support of academic integration and the development of a scholarly communications program. Academic integration includes the incorporation of library resources and services into academic courses, e-learning and other campus programs and events. Scholarly communications includes support of alternative communication modes and educating the university community about open access activities at UF, scholarly publication reform and intellectual property issues, and their impact on scholarly inquiry and instruction.

“I am honored to join the UF Smathers Libraries, which is an integral part of a top-tier public university. I will draw upon my diverse experiences in librarianship, international education, continuing education, and information science higher education to continue to contribute to this goal through this challenging and exciting position”, she said.

Silver most recently served as associate director of the UF Division of Continuing Education, developing distance courses and professional programs, including recruiting and hiring faculty, handling student issues and developing administrative infrastructure.

She has been active on the UF campus through leadership in the Academic and Professional Assembly and the Association for Academic Women, and is a lifetime member of the Association of University Women.

Silver began her career in academic librarianship at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill as a subject indexer, assisting in the development and revision of the Population/Family Planning Thesaurus, a multi-disciplinary subject-access tool. She then moved to Richmond, Virginia, to assume responsibilities as a branch head of a neighborhood public library and was promoted to head the Tuckahoe Area Library—a 32,000 sq. ft. facility in the rapidly-growing County of Henrico that surrounds Richmond City, VA.

Silver and her family then moved to Indonesia through the Fulbright program. While in Jakarta, she served as a consultant for collection development and cataloging to the Zorinsky Memorial Library at the American Cultural Center. Upon her return to the U.S., Silver served as interim and associate director of the Virginia Commonwealth University Center for International Programs.

After completing her doctoral program, Silver served for five years as assistant dean of the Graduate School of Library and Information Science at the University of Illinois, where she also taught several graduate courses.

Silver earned a bachelor’s degree from St. Lawrence University, a master’s degree in library science from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and a doctorate in public policy and administration from Virginia Commonwealth University.

Enter the libraries’ Thanksgiving card design contest

The winner will receive an iPod Touch!

The contest is open to all UF faculty, staff, students and alumni. See details at http://www.uflib.ufl.edu.
**Cindy Craig is the new psychology/sociology librarian**

Cindy Craig, the new psychology/sociology librarian at Library West, comes to UF from Wichita State University in Wichita, Kansas. There, she was the librarian for social sciences as well as a variety of other subjects. Cindy is originally from eastern Ohio. She graduated from Ohio University before moving to Emporia, Kansas for graduate school. It was while studying for a degree in art therapy that she learned about the field of librarianship.

After earning her master of library science degree in 2004, she worked as a children's librarian in Kentucky before moving to Wichita. Cindy recently co-authored a study evaluating the effectiveness of library instruction that was published in the Journal of Web Librarianship. She and her research partner presented on the findings of a second study at the RUSA Reference and Research Forum at the 2009 American Library Association Annual Conference in Chicago.

**Michael Howell moves to engineering librarian**

Michael Howell has moved from the libraries’ IT department to Marston Science Library as the subject specialist for aerospace engineering, civil & coastal engineering, mechanical engineering, computer technology and transportation & military/marine engineering.

His research interests include computer network integration in the construction industry; construction systems integration; engineering selection/collection development; and scientific-technical database searching, indexing and evaluation tools.

Howell retired from the U.S. Air Force in July 1995 after 15 years in the Civil Engineering/Engineering Corps career field. Prior to the military, he previously worked five years for the University of Florida. He returned to UF in January 1997 and has been with the libraries since June 1999.

He earned his master’s degree from Webster University in computer resources management and his bachelor’s degree from Columbia College in business administration/computer information systems.

**Digital Military Newspaper Library at the University of Florida Libraries**

A Digital Military Newspaper Library has been established in the Smathers Digital Library Center. The Digital Military Newspaper Library is a project to provide global access and long-term preservation for contemporary and historic military newspapers. These newspapers cover important historical data and information useful to students, researchers, veterans, military families and other interested parties.

Newspapers sponsored by the various branches of the armed forces focus exclusively on military issues and provide a first-hand perspective of soldiers and their families in peacetime and wartime circumstances that other media outlets do not. Special noteworthy features include comics for the military audience, headlines announcing new events in World War II and coverage of the integration of women into the military. The Digital Military Newspaper Library has made these historic newspapers freely accessible online in a comprehensive collection of Florida military newspapers.

These newspapers represent Naval and Air Force bases from many geographical regions around the state of Florida and include the Kennedy Space Center, a submarine base at King’s Bay, Georgia, the Panama Canal Zone and two newspapers in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

These newspapers can be accessed at http://www.uflib.ufl.edu/digital/dmnl. Other related UF digital collections include the Korean War Oral History Collection, Vietnam War Veterans Oral History Collection and World War II Oral History Collection from the University of Florida Libraries’ Samuel Proctor Oral History Program, and can be accessed at http://ufdcweb1.uflib.ufl.edu/ufdc/.

Kaitlin Wilson
Digital Military Newspaper Library Liaison
Jennifer Wondracek joins the Legal Information Center as reference librarian

Jennifer (Jenny) Wondracek has joined the Legal Information Center (LIC) as the new instructional services reference librarian. She will be working with faculty on distance learning course creation and other instructional issues. In addition, she will teach legal research, both online and in the classroom, and join the reference staff to help meet the needs of the LIC patrons.

Wondracek came from Elon University School of Law in Greensboro, NC, where she held the position of reference and government documents librarian. She earned her master of library and information sciences from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee's online program in 2006. Prior to becoming a librarian, she obtained her law degree from the University of North Carolina School of Law and practiced in North Carolina.

Wondracek recently co-authored an Issue Brief on the new exemptions for the U.S. Digital Millennium Copyright Act's restriction on circumventing technological access controls for the American Association of Law Libraries. She plans to continue her research on copyright law and the interaction of technology and the law.

Patricia Morgan
Legal Information Center

GIS Day at UF
Wednesday, November 17

The George A. Smathers Libraries will host an all-day event to showcase the use of geographic information systems (GIS) to the academic community and the public on Wednesday, November 17, 2010. GIS Day is a global event that celebrates GIS and is held each year on the Wednesday of Geography Awareness Week.

The Smathers Libraries will provide this opportunity for those curious about GIS to see its applications in action. The event will allow the many departments on campus who use GIS to come together to share the research projects on which they are working. In addition, it will highlight the many services and resources in the libraries’ Spatial Information Services Unit available for researchers using GIS. Past exhibitors have included the Geoplan Center, St. Johns Water Management District, the United States Geological Survey, and the GIS Division of Gainesville Regional Utilities.

The celebration will be held in Room 1A of the Smathers Library and will include speakers, poster sessions, exhibits, demonstrations and cake.

Carol McAuliffe
Head, Map & Imagery Library

Ellie Bushhousen
Health Science Center Library
Help build a coral reef

The Marston Science Library’s display room will evolve into a coral reef in April 2011.

Librarians will curate a satellite of the worldwide Hyperbolic Crochet Coral Reef project created by Margaret and Christine Wertheim of the Institute for Figuring (http://theiff.org) in Los Angeles. The project combines mathematical awareness, art practice and environmental awareness, and will involve collaboration from several areas on campus.

By showcasing the science communication aspect of the project, the Smathers Libraries plan to engage the interest of the academic community, addressing the mathematical nature of these natural structures and providing a forum for presentations and discussion. As a community art project, the Coral Reef provides an approach to a wide array of people of all ages, from school children to retirees, to teach or remind them of a handcraft, engage their creativity and engender awareness of the world’s oceans.

The libraries will sponsor a coordinating speaker series throughout the year. The series will focus first on the mathematical aspects to spark interest in crocheting, and will feature environmental topics while the exhibit is displayed.

Contributions of crocheted corals, yarn, hooks and other supplies, as well as funding for atoll construction, are appreciated. Once the single crochet stitch is mastered, hyperbolic planes and pseudospheres can be created with ease!

Please see photos of other satellite reefs and instructions for crocheting coral on the reef site at http://guides.uflib.ufl.edu/crochetreef. For more information, contact the team at lib-crochetreef@uflib.ufl.edu.

Denise Beaubien Bennett
Engineering Librarian

An equal opportunity institution
Cover photo: Library West