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Institutional Profile: Nelson Poynter Memorial Library, University of South Florida St. Petersburg September 2012

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Institutional Profile
Nelson Poynter Memorial Library, University of South Florida St. Petersburg
September 2012

Founded in 1965 as an overflow location for USF Tampa, [USF St. Petersburg \(USFSP\)](#) is today a separately accredited institution within the USF System with full membership in the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS), offering twenty programs at the baccalaureate level and eleven programs at the graduate level in the Colleges of Arts & Sciences, Business, and Education. 4600 undergraduate and graduate students call USFSP home, with an additional 1400+ students from across the USF System taking classes in St. Petersburg. USFSP awards approximately 800 degrees in Arts & Sciences, Business, and Education each year.

A three-story building on beautiful Bayboro Harbor, the 81,000 square foot Nelson Poynter Memorial Library is an ADA-compliant facility that provides an inviting place for research or study, with a variety of individual and group study and meeting spaces. The Library has been undertaking a number of projects to maximize the use of space, focusing on opening up individual and group study space on the first floor, acquiring new furnishings, and planning for new carpeting and compact shelving.



Opened in 1996, Poynter Library includes facilities for campus media services, a distance learning studio, and a networked bibliographical instruction classroom with projection capabilities. Fifteen group study rooms and a presentation corner with large screen monitors -- which may be connected to a laptop computer for group projects -- enable students to work together effectively on assignments and presentations. A forty-five-station networked computing information commons with Microsoft Office suite and library-specific applications, an Assistive Technologies Room with specialized equipment and software that facilitates access to library materials and online databases for those with impairments, wireless access throughout, and laptops available for checkout round out the technology tools available to the USFSP community through the Library.



Twenty-one permanent positions (with additional temporary and student staff), including the Dean of the Library and seven full-time faculty librarian positions, provide a full array of traditional library services, as well as online/distance learning and classroom technology support, assistive technologies support for special needs students, and campus ID card production. Professional reference assistance is available in person, over email, by phone, and through chat, along with specialized one-on-one research assistance and focused library instruction sessions.

The Poynter Library houses an extensive on-site collection of over 300,000 items, including books, journals, newspapers, and AV titles that support the educational, research, and service missions of USF St. Petersburg, supplemented by over a million and a half electronic resources available 24/7 through the auspices of a shared agreement with the USF System. Special Collections and Archives, with collection strengths in marine science, local and regional history, and journalism and media studies, also contain the University's official archives. A recently implemented [campus digital archive](#) enables the Library to carry out its archival mission more effectively, as well as to support the growing research and data needs of the University.

As the University moves to an increasingly blended (face-to-face and online) instructional environment, with students able to take a growing number of courses online at their own time and pace, it is the Library that provides [coordinated support for online courses](#) at USFSP, including training faculty on the [Quality Matters Program](#), ADA compliance, and the use of the current and planned USF System-supported course management system (currently Blackboard but migrating to Canvas.) The Poynter Library's broadcast and lecture capture studio – completely revamped in August 2012 - receives and transmits events such as video conferences and USFSP credit classes.



Digital audiovisual services are provided to faculty, students and staff to develop multimedia packages for teaching, delivery of information, learning and research. Library staff assist faculty in the design, delivery, and maintenance of online/distance learning courses and applications. Online courses are offered as streaming video or podcasting and use high-speed Internet access to any authorized user with an active e-mail account and Internet access. Three group listening and viewing rooms for all audio and video formats, a graphics lab, digitalization facility, a studio and control room and a production room round out the technology and facilities available in the library to support online learning.

Articulated in the October 2011 strategic plan, [Gateway to the World's Information](#), the Nelson Poynter Memorial Library's mission is to be an active partner in the teaching, research, and learning of the University of South Florida St. Petersburg's students, faculty, and staff. We promote student-centered learning and research in an inviting, creative, and collaborative environment. Our skilled faculty and staff strive to provide our academic community with easy access to high quality information when, where, and in the format in which it is needed. We offer enhanced services and instruction to help students use information ethically, effectively, and efficiently. We provide the skilled leadership needed to preserve the knowledge and institutional history of USFSP. Through strategic community and professional partnerships we expose our campus community to additional resources, new ideas, and innovative opportunities.

The Library seeks to engage the students and faculty of the University and the community in which it resides through regular assessments, programs, exhibits, collaborations, the website, blogs, and the use of social media, such as [Facebook](#).

For more information, we invite you to explore the [Library's website](#) (in the process of being redesigned), or visit the [Library's collections in the digital archive](#).