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Exhibits and Special Collections at the Nelson Poynter Memorial Library

Nelson Poynter Memorial Library. Special Collections and University Archives.

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Exhibits and Special Collections at the Nelson Poynter Memorial Library

Special Collections and
Archives, Room 321
USF St. Petersburg
Library

OCTOBER 1996

An Accent on Learning

The "new" Nelson Poynter Memorial Library opened on August 19, 1996. Located alongside the former campus library, this structure includes group study rooms, an impressive media center, and extensive print and computerized research resources.

The Special Collections and Archives reading room is located on the third floor in POY 321. This brochure describes exhibits produced by the archives, as well as research collections and bibliographic instruction available to patrons.

Currently on Display

The following exhibits are located in Special Collections, room 321:

"Oral History in Modern America"

"Nelson Poynter and the Press"

***"Welcome to the Boom Town:
St. Petersburg during the 1920s"***

The following exhibits are located near the book stacks and the open atrium:

"Government in the Sunshine"

Books and publications that document politics and government in Florida. (Third floor)

"A History of the Poynter Library"

Images of the Poynter Library, past and present. (Second floor, near stairs and elevator)

"A Look Back at Technology Before the Internet and E-mail"

A display that recalls the personal computer revolution of the 1980s. (Third floor, near stairs and elevator)

"Presidential Politics in America"

You don't have to enroll in the Electoral College to learn about the role of the Chief Executive in American history. (Third floor)

"Placing the Accent on Learning: A Sample of Scholarship Produced by USF St. Petersburg's Faculty"

This representative selection celebrates the scholarly activity of faculty at USF St. Petersburg. (Third floor vertical display in Special Collections alcove)

Special Exhibit

***"LeRoy Collins: His Life and
Legacy"***

October 7-25, 1996

St. Petersburg hosts the vice presidential debate on Wednesday, October 9. To commemorate this historic event, the library celebrates the political career of LeRoy Collins, governor of Florida from 1955 to 1961. This exhibit is on loan from the LeRoy Collins Leon County Public Library, Tallahassee.



University Archives

The Special Collections room serves as the repository for the USF St. Petersburg archives, and includes papers, photographs, and publications that document the institutional history of the Bayboro Campus.



Local and Regional History Collections

In addition to university publications, the Special Collections room attempts to preserve materials related to the history of St. Petersburg, Pinellas County, and the West Central Florida region. Books, manuscripts, and photographic collections at USF St. Petersburg complement the holdings of other institutions. Staff can also assist with reference inquiries about collections and usage policies of other repositories.



The Oral History of Modern America

Since 1993, the Poynter library has actively collected oral history interviews that document the diversity of our community. At the present time, the Special Collections room contains over 500 oral history interviews--as well as transcripts and other supplemental materials--that describe the development of Pinellas County and other areas of Florida. Staff are also available to provide instruction and assistance to students and faculty who wish to incorporate oral history into their scholarly regimen.



Marine Science and Natural History

USF St. Petersburg's graduate programs in the Department of Marine Science attract students and researchers from throughout the world. The Special Collections area contains a number of rare books on ichthyology, natural history, evolution, and related areas. Although most of the items in this collection do not appear in the computerized library catalog at this time, staff will assist you in locating resources that might be of interest.



The Papers of Nelson Poynter

The campus library is dedicated to Nelson Poynter, longtime editor and publisher of the St. Petersburg Times. As early as the 1950s, Poynter lobbied for the creation of a state university in Pinellas County. He became a strong advocate for the Bayboro Campus after it opened in 1965. Poynter suffered a stroke shortly after he attended the June 1978 groundbreaking for the old campus library and Davis Hall. To preserve Poynter's legacy as a pioneering journalist and leader in our community, the Special Collections room serves as the repository of the Nelson Poynter Memorial Collection of papers, manuscripts, and related materials.

For More Information . . .

please contact Jim Schnur in the Nelson Poynter Memorial Library by telephone (553-3590) or electronic mail (schnur@stpt.usf.edu OR schnur@freenet.tlh.fl.us) .

Journalism and Mass Communications

In addition to the Poynter Papers, the library owns a substantial collection of underground newspapers (with over 3000 issues), newspapers that document the John F. Kennedy assassination and Richard M. Nixon's resignation, local alternative publications, and campus newspapers.



Reference and Research Assistance

Special Collections staff provides reference and research assistance, as well as bibliographic instruction for those materials located in the archives. Staff can suggest other special libraries or archives that have resources of interest. Please contact the Special Collections staff in advance to schedule a reference interview.



Harry J. Schaleman, Jr. Visiting Scholar Office

Harry J. Schaleman joined the USF St. Petersburg faculty in 1968. A professor of geography, Schaleman was loved and respected as a dedicated scholar, teacher, and friend. After Professor Schaleman passed away in August 1995, the library designated a research room (POY 248) in his name. This office includes many of Harry's books and personal items, and is available to visiting scholars.