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Robert M. Thrush Audio/Visual Services Administrative Files

Nelson Poynter Memorial Library. Special Collections and University Archives.

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**Robert M. Thrush
Audio/Visual Services
Administrative Files**

**USF St. Petersburg Archives
Record Group 677, Series: 001**



Bob Thrush (left) operating the camera during the dedication of Lowell E. Davis Memorial Hall, 25 September 1990

A Collection Guide by
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Nelson Poynter Memorial Library
University of South Florida St. Petersburg

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Introduction to the Collection

A native of Detroit, Robert McIntyre Thrush moved to St. Petersburg at a young age and graduated from St. Petersburg High School in the mid-1940s. On 1 April 1968, he received an appointment as a halftime Clerk II at the Extension Library on the Bay Campus (now USF St. Petersburg). Working under the supervision of Extension Librarian Osborne Gomez, Thrush coordinated audio/visual services for the young campus. By the early 1970s, he became a fulltime audio/visual technician that had the responsibility of filling student and faculty equipment requests, borrowing films and other instructional materials from the Tampa campus, and working on the Tampa campus during quarter and semester breaks. With the opening of the original Poynter Library in 1981, Thrush's work space moved from cramped quarters in 'B' Building to an area of the library specifically developed for media services.

By the late 1980s, "Bob" Thrush oversaw a very active area of campus. Under the supervision of Gerald Notaro, Media Services Librarian, he became a Senior Audio/Visual Equipment Operator. He and wife Dorothy "Dot" Thrush—a longtime employee in the campus bookstore—retired from the University in 1991. Subsequent Senior A/V Equipment Operators—Melissa Conlin Schultz, Jim Schnur, and David Brodosi—continued Thrush's tradition of offering high quality audio/visual services as the landscape of educational technology rapidly changed. These materials offer a portrait of instructional media activities at USF St. Petersburg from the late 1960s through the early 1980s.

Preservation Note

The documents in this collection occupy four file folders. While preservation measures may slow the physical deterioration of items, these steps cannot prevent damage from occurring. To prevent further damage to the fragile materials in this collection, avoid exposing them to light for an extended period of time. Please report any tears or other damage so that library staff may take appropriate preservation or conservation measures. Staff will evaluate photocopying or digitization requests on an individual basis to ensure the long-term preservation of this unique collection.

Provenance of the Robert M. Thrush AV Services Administrative Files

The items in this archival collection fall under Record Group 677 (Poynter Library, Instructional Media Services) of the USF St. Petersburg Archives. The Special Collections and Archives department of the Nelson Poynter Memorial Library received these materials from David Brodosi, Audiovisual Specialist, in January 2006.

Scope and Contents

The contents occupy 0.15 linear feet. This collection includes correspondence, departmental statistics, equipment information, and similar materials. Patrons may inspect all public records in this collection without restriction under the provisions of Chapter 119, Laws of Florida.

Related Collections

For additional materials related to the Poynter Library, please consult with staff regarding materials in Record Groups 600-699. Transcripts of oral history interviews conducted with Bob and Dot Thrush are also available in Poynter Library's campus archives files.

Folder Listing

- Folder 1 Instructional Media Statistics and Ledgers**
Comparative statistics of equipment deliveries, film and video showings, instructional media requests, transparencies and student ID cards made, and similar activities
Statistics of billed and uncharged (classroom instruction) activities
[Inclusive dates: 1971- 1984]
- Folder 2 Correspondence**
Includes “thank-you” letters and memoranda from USFSP staff and community members
- Folder 3 Equipment Research and Procurement**
Files related to audio/visual equipment acquired as campus began to move away from traditional 16mm film and towards video cameras and video cassette recorders (representative sample of items to illustrate the new technologies of the 1970s and 1980s)
- Folder 4 Personnel and Supervision Materials**
Includes a fall 1972 workbook from a seminar for supervisors held by USF Personnel Services