
Library Staff Meetings

Nelson Poynter Memorial Library

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by Joyce Morin
April 13, 1993

LIBRARY PARAPROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE

MAPS IN LIBRARIES: VISIONS OF THE FUTURE, REFLECTIONS OF THE PAST.

The presentation was given by Dr. Helen Jane Armstrong
February 22, 1993

Maps Organize our thoughts and ideas.

Maps, it is estimated that a map is in use somewhere in the world every second of everyday. Maps are one of the oldest and most common tools of civilization. The oldest known map is credited to the mesopotamians and is estimated to have been done around 2800 BC. Early hunters drew maps to indicate the water holes needed for survival. Islanders did map representations with shells and reeds.

The first recorded map library was thought to have been established in 1493. The seventeenth century saw the beginning of the map collection in the British Museum.

Although the Library of Congress is credited with the largest collection in existence some 5,000,000. the University of Florida map and Imagery Library is among the top 5 academic map libraries in the United States and is the largest in the southeastern US. It has 415,790 maps, 242,230 aerial photographs, 1,980 remote sensing images and 4,260 atlases and reference books.

Major categories of cartographic materials in the University of Florida Map and Imagery Library:

Topographical - these maps show land terrain and elevations plus cultural information such as towns, roads, and administrative boundaries. Over 75% of the maps produced worldwide are of this type.

Thematic - extensive special topic maps are available for many subjects. They include demographic economic, political, geology, anthropology environmental, soils architecture.

Historical - these are detailed maps of many florida cities made for fire insurance purposes between 1884-1930. Because of their rarity the originals cannot be photocopied.

. Navigation charts - these are charts of the skies, solar system, and galaxies they accompany tide and pilot tables. Airport directories are also available.

Aerial Photographs - coverage is available of United States soil conservation service. aerial photographs for Florida counties from 1939 to present. These are detailed enlargements. One third of the users at the University of Florida maps library come to use the aerial photo maps.

Satellite Imagery - this geographic coverage is mainly Florida, major US cities and natural features. The University of Florida is one of the few libraries that holds collections of remote sensing images. It has extensive photographic printouts of digital satellite images and skylab/space shuttle photography.

Recreational/Travel - the diverse holdings in this category include numerous roads, cities and tourist maps for foreign countries and US states, national parks and forest maps as well as a variety of hiking guides and trail maps.

Local - the library holds extensive resources for Gainesville and Alachua county. These include maps of soil, water and sewer lines, topography, tax parcels, land use, urban plans, school and voting districts.

Special format - cartographic materials are available in a variety of formats among these are globes, CD rom and computer files, microforms, and slide and tapes. There are many maps found on computer software as well as mapping software. PC globe has both mac and dos versions. University of Florida is one of 30 libraries in the US chosen for a CD rom S.I.S. literacy program. There are other programs entitled storm. you can feed storm information into the program and it will track the path of a tropical storm or hurricane and draw a map of anticipated route.

The least expensive maps available are CIA maps. They are also the most current. They are government documents available in 8 1/2 x 11 form and copying them is not a copyright infringement.

At the University of Florida all maps are individually catalogued. The copy cataloging is done by student assistants, the original cataloging of most maps is done by the LTA, with supervision of the librarian.

The Earth Science Information Center (ESIC) run by the United States Geological Survey has a toll free number, 1-800-USA-MAPS.

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Joyce Morin
Library Paraprofessionals' Development Conference

The 1st Annual Library Paraprofessionals' Development Conference was a huge success. It took place at the George A. Smathers Library at the University of Florida in Gainesville, FL.

There were 179 Paraprofessionals' in attendance representing 15 states as far as Washington state and Maine, 57 institutions including the Library of Congress and the United States Supreme Court Library in Washington DC.

The keynote speaker, Dale Canelas, a member of the Board of the Association of Research Libraries, and director of the University of Florida Libraries, gave a talk on Paraprofessionals' and Technology. Followed by a panel discussion on Multimedia News and Technology, given by Clarissa Fischer, assistant chair of Public Services at the Health Sciences Center and Colleen Seale, Coordinator of Computerized Information Services and the Marketing Retailing Selector in the Humanities and Social Science Services Department; and also Mark Stawson a member of the Acquisitions Department with the University of Florida. We learned that media is diverse and each item must be considered individually when it is added to the collection. Some of the different considerations of media are catalogue; security; expense; and copyright. Other media topics included was a comparison of microforms to printed materials. The cost; longevity; storage and security. A new Fujji machine that scans microforms and transfers to disc, plain or video. (University of Florida bargaining for the price of \$15,000.00) we also learned of the University of Pittsburgh's fiber optics transmission of microforms and video to each classroom from a central location, a joint venture of AT&T and the University of Pittsburgh.

Dr. Helen Jane Armstrong, who is head of the University of Florida Maps and Imagery Library, which she founded in 1973. The library houses over 405,000 maps, (the library is now ranked one of the top 5 academic map libraries in the United States) lectured on maps in libraries: Visions of the Future, Reflections of the Past. We learned that maps are used every second in the world, and that maps are one of the oldest communication tools. The oldest map dates back to 2800 BC, a Mesopotamia map. The first map library was established in 1493. We learned to identify the different variety of maps and what they are used for. There is a toll free line for maps its 1 800 USA MAPS.

Gary Cornwell, the Federal Documents Librarian at the University of Florida lectured on the Evolving Depository Library and Ann Williams, Director of the Alachua County Library, lectured on Public Libraries enter the 21 Century. Mary (Tinker) Massey an archivist in the collection database maintenance unit of the catalogue department of University of Florida, lectured on Participative Management. Erich Kesse, Preservation Officer at University of Florida since 1987, lectured on Approaches to Maintaining Library Resources. We learned some of the conservation steps to maintain a healthy collection. There are 75 preservation programs in the United States. There is a toll free number 1 800 628 1912. Preservation begins with planned parenting. It's born - comes out of publication, clothing - cover or protection, deteriorate - repair unit - same a doctor. The banquet speaker, Kathleen Weibel, a librarian that has had a varied career in librarianship but has always focused on the development of library services and the development of library staff, gave a electrifying talk entitled I work in a Library, But I'm Not a Librarian.

The roundtable discussions covered virtually every department in the library. Circulation, reference, interlibrary loan, cataloging, acquisitions, on day one. Children's services, documents, periodicals, adult services, administrative services, and preservation on day 2. An ideal chance to interact, develop contacts, and to get some individual attention from people who can help you solve problems. Tours were available of the campus and departments on Friday February 19 and Monday February 22.