

# Pointing the Way: The Nelson Poynter Memorial Library



Campus Archives, Poynter Library

A dynamite team of librarians, circa 1992: Kathleen Arsenault, Jerry Notaro, Tina Neville, Signe Oberhofer (seated), Jackie Shewmaker, and Jackie Jackson.

After Sam moved over to the Tampa Campus Library in 1991, Mary Grigsby and F. Landon "Lanny" Greaves prepared the library for its next move. Groundbreaking ceremonies for the present library took place in April 1993, but construction delays caused by Hurricane Andrew (1992) and other unexpected circumstances postponed the building's completion until mid-1996. That summer, library staff prepared to move over 150,000 volumes and numerous special collections. It went off without a hitch—except for a fire that started in some boxes between the new and old library buildings on August 4.

After the smoke had cleared, the new library opened for business in August 1996. Students and faculty could now take advantage of greatly expanded computer facilities in the library, including an "information commons" area with internet access. Cooperative arrangements with other USF libraries also allowed for the rapid expansion of online database and full-text journals through a "virtual library" network. Kathleen Arsenault became the library's first dean in May 2002. Today, the library has well over 200,000 volumes, including rare and unique tomes that date to 1553.



"Library Fire of 1996"—Fire began between old and new libraries. Library director Lanny Greaves to the rescue, with fire extinguisher in hand, August 1996.



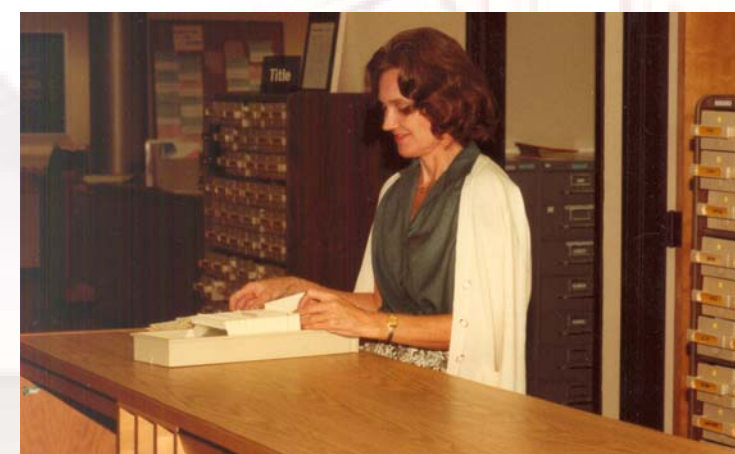
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"Check This Out": A circulation desk without any computers in the 'new' library building, now Bayboro Hall, 1984.



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The card catalog was the first place many students visited in the library, March 1986. Later that year, an online library catalog made these boxes of cards obsolete.



Jackie "JJ" Jackson—fondly known by many as "the lady with the British accent"—inspecting the card catalog, 1984.



Faculty and staff gathered for one of the many "barcoding parties" to prepare over 110,000 books for the automated library catalog, 1985. Kathleen Arsenault and education professor Eleanor Guetzloe are in this photograph.



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Jerry Notaro, media librarian, at the reference desk, late 1980s.



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Library staff, in a fall 1992 gathering: Deanna Bishop, Joyce Morin, Virginia Champion, Mary Grigsby (library director, in her favorite baseball cap), David Brodosi, and Renee Stokes.



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Preparing the present library for books, summer 1996.



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Lanny Greaves and USF President Betty Castor at the new library's dedication, fall 1996.



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Library under construction, fall 1995.



Campus Archives, Poynter Library

Reception for Vice Presidential Debate, October 1996.

## Table of Contents: A Chronology

**September 1965:** The University of South Florida launched classes at the Bay Campus, but students had only a browsing library without staff or librarians on site to assist them.

**Fall 1965:** The Extension Library opened its collection to Bay Campus students.

**1968-1969:** Regular library service began at USF St. Petersburg's 'A' Building. Audiovisual services were coordinated through an employee hired by the Tampa campus.

**1972:** The SUS Extension Library moved to an off-site location, allowing for the expansion of library facilities including a group study room in the 'A' Building.

**January 1973:** The library made plans to implement an "intralibrary" loan system with the Tampa Campus Library, then located in Tampa's SVC building.

**June 15, 1978:** Groundbreaking ceremonies for new 40,800 square foot library facility, now Bayboro Hall.

**1980:** The overcrowded library in 'A' Building contained over 76,000 volumes and nearly 600 periodical subscriptions.

**May 15, 1981:** Dedication of Nelson Poynter Memorial Library.

**1985:** Library holdings surpassed 100,000 volumes.

**November 1985:** The Society for Advancement of Poynter Library organized as a support organization.

**1985-1986:** Library staff barcoded book collections and prepared for an online library catalog and circulation system.

**Fall 1986:** USF library holdings placed on LUIS, the "Library User Information System," an automated catalog. The card catalog was no longer updated.

**April 16, 1993:** Groundbreaking for the new (present) Poynter library building.

**Summer 1996:** Old library closed as collections were moved to the new building.

**August 1996:** New library opened in time for classes, with dedication ceremonies on November 1.

**October 1996:** Vice Presidential Debate reception held in new library as its first grand debut.

**1999:** DVDs were added to the collection for the first time.

**2001-2002:** Library book collection surpassed 200,000 volumes.

**Spring 2003:** Library systems team installed a wireless LAN in the building.

**2004:** Last phonographic records were removed from the library's collection.

**June 2005:** Transition to a new online catalog for the USF Libraries System.