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The Subject Librarian Newsletter, History, Spring 2015

Richard Harrison

University of Central Florida, richard.harrison@ucf.edu

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HISTORY NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2015



Richard H. Harrison II
*Subject Librarian for
 History*

(407) 823-4249
 Hitt Library 203K
 Richard.Harrison@ucf.edu

THE WANING DAYS of Spring Semester 2015 are upon us, and the Hitt Library is a beehive of student activity. The Knowledge Commons, pictured in the banner (above), is anything but empty. And once we are in finals week, you will find students in the stairwells, the hallways – any vacant space in the building, but especially any place in Hitt Library that has an electrical outlet to plug in a laptop!

21st Century Library Project



After several years of discussion and planning, it appears that Phase I of the John C. Hitt Library renovation and expansion will become a reality, with construction to begin within the next 12 to 18 months.

Phase I is the construction of a four-story building on the north side of the existing structure (facing the Student Union). This building will include a large 24-hour study area as well as what is dubbed as the “ARC,” an automated retrieval center. The retrieval center, which could house up to 1.2 million print volumes, uses cranes to store and retrieve bins filled with books, microforms, and government documents. Similar retrieval systems are already in use at the libraries of the University of Chicago, North Carolina State University, University of Nevada—Las Vegas, University of Louisville, and Georgia Southern University. A brief overview of how the retrieval system would work is available at:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ESCxYchCaWI>.

The funding for Phase I comes from a Capital Improvement Trust Fund fee increase of \$2 UCF students levied on themselves two years ago. The Fund now totals approximately \$12.5 million.

It is hoped that within the next five years Phases II and III – a total renovation of the extant Hitt Library – will commence. The renovation would include an area exclusively for graduate students and more group study rooms.

SUCCESSFUL TECH FEE PROPOSAL BOOSTS LIBRARIES' HOLDINGS

As the result of a successful Technology Fee proposal this past fall, the UCF Libraries have purchased the America's Historical Imprints database, which has a combined search interface to eight databases based on the digitized holdings of the American Antiquarian Society's landmark collections. These comprehensive online resources offer more than 150,000 early American books, pamphlets, broadsides, and rare printed materials. Featuring extensive indexing and full bibliographic information, these unique primary sources enable students and faculty to browse and explore America's past in unprecedented ways. Among the collections included in America's Historical Imprints are the following:

- American Broadside and Ephemera, Series 1, 1749-1900**
 This full-color digital edition offers fully searchable images of approximately 15,000 broadsides printed between 1820 and 1900 and 15,000 pieces of ephemera printed between 1749 and 1900. These rare documents include such genres as sailing cards, envelopes, confessions, playbills, campaign literature, menus, and music programs.
- American Pamphlets, Series 1, 1820-1922**
 Revealing passionate views and perspectives not seen in other print genres, these rare items addressing slavery, suffrage, and dozens of other divisive issues include speeches, orations, debates, sermons, treatises, tracts, narratives, poems, songs, memoirs, announcements, and legal notices.
- Early American Imprints, Series II: Shaw-Shoemaker, 1801-1819**
 Early American Imprints contains virtually every known book, pamphlet, and broadside published in America between 1640 and the first two decades of the nineteenth century – more than 75,000 printed items in all. It contains a vast range of publications, including advertisements, almanacs, bibles, broadsides, catalogs, charters and by-laws, contracts, cookbooks, elegies, eulogies, laws, maps, narratives, novels, operas, pamphlets, plays, poems, primers, sermons, songs, speeches, textbooks, tracts, and travelogues. Shaw-Shoemaker complements a database already owned by the UCF Libraries, Early American Imprints, Series I: Evans, 1639-1800.
- The American Civil War Collection, 1860-1922**
 This collection features more than 13,500 works published between 1860 and 1922 that address all facets of the War. These diverse materials, all digitized in full-resolution color, include broadsides, lithographs, maps, books, pamphlets, photographs, political cartoons, stereographs, and more. Coverage extends throughout the Civil War and well beyond into the critical postwar period.
- The American Slavery Collection, 1820-1922**
 A collection containing more than 3,500 works, including books, pamphlets, graphic materials, ephemera, and a large number of invaluable Southern imprints.

To access the America's Historical Imprints database, follow this link:
<http://library.ucf.edu/Web/purl.asp?pid=1506>.

SKUNK APE? PETER'S MUDHOLE? LOOK THEM UP IN *DARE* DIGITAL

The UCF Libraries now have the digital, online version of the *Dictionary of American Regional English (DARE)*, which transforms the *Dictionary* into an interactive, multimedia tool that will greatly benefit both scholarly inquiry and general intellectual curiosity. In addition to definitions, *DARE* entries note example quotations, regions of use, pronunciation, usage, etymology, cross references, and related words. The interactive map on the *DARE* homepage enables browsing by region, including states and major areas within each region. The *Dictionary* is available at this link:
<http://library.ucf.edu/Web/purl.asp?pid=1508>.