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NEW LIBRARY DATABASE: WOMEN AND SOCIAL MOVEMENTS

In collaboration with the Women’s and Gender Studies program, the UCF Libraries recently purchased through a successful Technology Fee proposal Women and Social Movements in the United States, 1600 to 2000.

Women and Social Movements is both a database and a peer-reviewed journal. It brings together innovative scholarship, primary documents, books, images, essays, book reviews and web reviews, teaching tools, and more. It is organized around document projects, works of scholarship that link an interpretive essay to 30 or more related primary documents, leading users step-by-step from discovery to contextual understanding, which can be tremendously beneficial in facilitating undergraduate student learning, as well as scholarly research for graduate studies. Some examples of primary sources in the database include:

- The History of Woman Suffrage (six volumes, 1881-1922).
- Proceedings of the national conventions of women’s anti-slavery societies in the 1830s.
- Annual conventions of the Woman’s Christian Temperance Union (1874–1898).
- A collection of the writings of 80 black women suffragists, totaling 1,500 items and more than 15,000 pages, with links to online documents that provide access to 1,000 additional writings of these activists.
- More than 50 state reports addressing gender bias in the courts.

Altogether, Women and Social Movements includes 160,000 pages of documents written by more than 2,450 primary authors. Each issue of the database adds new material, offering the latest historical scholarship and related primary materials.

A dictionary of social movements and a chronology of U.S. women’s history complement the primary sources and facilitate searching within the database.

Women and Social Movements in the United States, 1600 to 2000 can be found listed alphabetically on the Libraries’ database page: <http://guides.ucf.edu/databases>.

21ST CENTURY LIBRARY CONSTRUCTION NOW UNDERWAY

Site preparation has begun for the Phase I construction on the Student Union side of the John C. Hitt Library.

Phase I is a four-story building which will include a large 24-hour study area as well as what is dubbed as the “ARC,” an automated retrieval center. The retrieval center, designed to house up to 1.2 million volumes, will use 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, University of Missouri—Kansas City, and Georgia Southern University.

In addition to the retrieval center construction, several major improvements will be made to the existing building over the course of the next year: conversion of the fifth floor to a new quiet study area, more electrical outlets, accessible restrooms, renovated stairwells and sprinklers throughout the building, and upgraded elevators.

Phases II and III will include the construction of an atrium that connects the ARC to the library building, and a complete renovation of the existing building. The renovation plans include group study rooms, as well as graduate student space, a digital commons, and an expanded special collections and exhibits area.

For future updates on the UCF 21st Century Library Project, please visit <http://library.ucf.edu/21st/>.