

## ARCHON WORKSHOP AT MIAMI

Through a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities Division of Preservation and Access, the state of Florida sponsored a free Society of American Archivists workshop, "Implementing DACS in Integrated Content Management Systems: Using Archon," at the University of Miami, August 19-20. Kyle Rimkus, University of Miami digital librarian, and Scott Schwartz, archivist at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and a developer of the Archon archival information system, conducted the workshop.

Approximately 20 trainees, representing college and university archives, historical societies, libraries, and museums, used

the latest version of Archon (3.13) to learn how to create collection descriptions according to the DACS (Describing Archives: A Content Standard), the national content standard for preparing such descriptions, and how to import/export Archon records to/from other formats such as MARC and EAD.

It is important to note that this workshop, in addition to several others presented this year, resulted from partnerships with several Florida repositories and institutions during the past nine years in an initiative called Opening Archives in Florida, which provides education and training to

archivists and others who care for historical records. Last December, the Opening Archives team was awarded an NEH Preservation and Access Education and Training Grant to support its statewide program, Advancing Access and Preservation Best Practices in Florida. The primary goal of this education project is to provide training to archivists and others who care for



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historical records through a series of workshops covering preservation and access standards and practices, including basic arrangement and description, minimal level processing, archival information systems, and descriptive standards.

SAA has conducted three workshops this year in Miami and Tampa. These workshops are organized by the Opening Archives team, which includes members from the Florida Center for Library Automation, the University of Florida, the University of Miami, the University of Central Florida, Florida State University, and the University of South Florida. The workshops are co-sponsored by SFA and the second workshop, DACS, was held in conjunction with the SFA Annual Meeting in Tampa in May. The workshop "More Product, Less Process" will be held in Gainesville on October 31.

*Submitted by Burt Altman*



**Michael Zaidman**  
SFA President

## Presidential Address

Dear SFA members,

Over the summer, I had the pleasure of receiving several visits from SFA members representing repositories throughout the state - it's always interesting to compare notes and "talk shop" with other archivists. Although we represent unique collections, our ability to rely upon our group's cooperative network of experience and ideas is priceless, particularly in the current economic challenges we are all facing.

Last month, I sent a message to the SFA Listserv asking for letters of support for three organizations in South Florida. To update you on their status, the Delray Beach Historical Society and the Deerfield Beach Historical Society received some newspaper coverage of their plight, but they are still fighting to keep their doors open. Initially, the Broward County Historical Commission was able to keep their budget and save their staff positions, however, the County Commissioners have now reversed their decision and decided to re-organize the Commission by replacing the current experienced archival staff with three county librarians who lack specialized archival training.

I am sure some of you are thinking why do I need to do anything? I don't live in South Florida. I already have too much to do. Without the support of our professional community, we would not have the ability to share ideas, network and arrange for continuing education conferences all over the state. Please consider writing a letter on behalf of these organizations, or others that may need help, to show support of the archival community. Our organization is small, but we are mighty.

After five years and twenty-two issues of serving as newsletter editor, I have decided to step back from this responsibility. Vice-President, Tomaro Taylor has been appointed the next newsletter editor. Please send Tomaro ([ttaylor@usf.edu](mailto:ttaylor@usf.edu)) any relevant information by the next deadline, January 15, 2011. I know her fresh approach will bring positive changes to our publication. Congratulations Tomaro! As this is my last newsletter, I would like to thank everyone for sending in their stories, photos and postings over the past few years. Putting together a newsletter is not an easy task, but in the end it was worth it. I would also like to thank my colleagues, Erin Santana and Nicole Shuey, who tirelessly helped me edit, stamp and seal each issue.

For those of you who would like to become more involved in SFA, volunteers are needed to serve on several committees, including the Awards, Local Arrangements, Nominating, and Scholarship committees. Please contact me for details.

As a reminder, your SFA membership is effective for the calendar year, January to December. Please fill out the form on page seven or online and mail it in today. Early renewals save us the time and expense of sending a membership renewal letter. We are currently working on the next annual conference to be held in historic St. Augustine at Flagler College, May 4 – 6, 2011. Please submit your program proposals, ideas and comments to Christine Wysocki ([christine.wysocki@gmail.com](mailto:christine.wysocki@gmail.com)), Local Arrangements Chair. It should be another great SFA conference!

Enjoy the remainder of 2010 and please consider offering your support of archival organizations throughout the state.

## SUPPORT FOR THE HAITIAN LIBRARIES & ARCHIVES UPDATE

The Digital Library of the Caribbean’s Protecting Haitian Patrimony (PHP) initiative continues to rally support for the libraries and archives in Haiti as they work to protect their collections and restore services to their users. The four institutions in Haiti supported by PHP, two public and two private, each face unique challenges as they leverage limited resources to repair damage caused by the earthquake while continuing to provide services to the public. The dLOC project coordinator, Brooke Wooldridge, will provide a more detailed update regarding the status of each institution after a third site visit in early November.

Through collaboration with the Society of Florida Archivists, the libraries and National Archives in Haiti will have access to much needed supplies. In addition to the very generous donation of more than 1,500 archival boxes from Hollinger Metal Edge, several Florida institutions contributed archival folders and folder boxes, pamphlet boxes, archival paper and binders for the Haitian libraries and archives. Florida State University, The Jim Moran Foundation, the University of Florida and the University of Miami contributed materials for the first shipment to Haiti. PHP anticipates sending a second shipments to Haiti in early 2011, so if you have surplus archival supplies please consider donating them to Haiti. SFA also contributed \$700 to help cover the costs of shipping the materials to Port-au-Prince.



**Sobe Export employees preparing the shipment for Haiti, August 2010.**

The initial PHP shipment arrived in Haiti on September 9, 2010. The National Library of Haiti will distribute the materials among their remaining partner institutions in Haiti. The Florida International University’s Haiti Task Force will cover the costs for Ms. Wooldridge to travel to Haiti in November to meet with project partners to document the arrival of the first donation and assess the needs of the libraries and archives.

PHP continues to advocate for the long term support of the libraries and archives in Haiti. The director of the National Library of Haiti, Francoise Thybulle, will speak at the annual Haitian Studies Association conference at Brown University in November. The University of Florida Center for Latin American Studies will host a Benefit Concert for Haiti on October 22. While this report does not recap all of the PHP efforts, of special note for this group is a training workshop organized by the University of the West Indies in Mona, Jamaica, in June where 20 staff from Haitian libraries and archives received preservation training.

If any SFA members have materials to donate, would like to raise funds through a local event, or would be interested in participating in additional training workshops in Haiti, please contact Ms. Wooldridge at [dloc@fiu.edu](mailto:dloc@fiu.edu).

—Submitted by Brooke Wooldridge

### DONORS TO HAITI FUND

- Hollinger Metal Edge
- Florida State University
- The Jim Moran Foundation
- University of Florida
- University of Miami
- Mary Flekke
- John Nemmers
- Kathy Turner Thompson
- Michael Zaidman

## Communiqué

### SFA ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Society of Florida Archivists has a new Facebook group page! Join today at <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=161475000544818>.

... Tomaro Taylor was appointed the new editor of *The Florida Archivist* in 2011. Send all relevant information to her at [tomaro@usf.edu](mailto:tomaro@usf.edu).

### ANNOUNCEMENTS/CAREER NEWS

Darla Moore is the new archival specialist at Olin Library, Rollins College.

... Dottie Patterson, archivist at the Delray Beach Historical Society, has announced her retirement for October 28, 2010.

... Jean Carey, a 2008 graduate of the University of South Florida's MLIS program, passed the annual exam administered by the Academy of Certified Archivists in Tallahassee on August 11, 2010. Jean administers the archival collection of heritage local newspapers from the early 20th Century at the Safety Harbor Public Library, where she is a reference librarian, and is completing her M.A. thesis on modernist German painter Franz Marc at USF's College of the Arts. Congratulations Jean!

... In early June, Young At Art, in partnership with Broward County Libraries and Broward County Board of County Commissioners, held a Groundbreaking Ceremony to celebrate the milestone of construction commencing on the New Young at Art Museum and Broward County Children's Reading Center.

The event was held at the construction site for the new Reading Center, which will be built on more than 11 acres of land in Davie. A public artwork commissioned by Broward County Board of County Commissioners will be integrated into the design of the interior and/or exterior space of the library/museum.

... The editors of *The Interactive Archivist: Case Studies in Utilizing Web 2.0 to Improve the Archival Experience* are seeking additional case studies. They are particularly interested in case studies documenting the use of Twitter and virtual environments (Second Life, etc.) by archival repositories. They also welcome additional case studies in areas such as blogging, social networking, tagging and folksonomies, mashups, RSS, wikis, photo sharing services, video sharing services, and podcasts. Proposals for new case studies should describe which Web 2.0 technology their institution is using, how it is being used, how they have assessed (or plan to assess) its effectiveness, and how using the Web 2.0 technology could benefit other archivists. Proposals should be no longer than 500 words. Please send proposals to both editors: J. Gordon Daines, III ([gordon\\_daines@byu.edu](mailto:gordon_daines@byu.edu)) and Cory L. Nimer ([cory\\_nimer@byu.edu](mailto:cory_nimer@byu.edu)).

### CONFERENCES/ROUNDTABLES/WORKSHOPS

The Society of Florida Archivists' Annual Meeting is being held May 4 – 6, 2011 in The Nation's Oldest City, St. Augustine at Flagler College. Join us for an exciting series of panel sessions and presentations, networking opportunities and other conference-related events. This is one conference that you don't



want to miss!

It's time to start submitting your session proposals and graduate student poster sessions. Got books and other interesting things that would make great Silent Auction Items? All proceeds from the Silent Auction benefit the Judith Beale Student Scholarship. Looking for a great Sponsorship Opportunity? Let's talk! Contact Christine Wysocki at [christine.wysocki@gmail.com](mailto:christine.wysocki@gmail.com) to discuss branding and other means of showing your support.

... On Tuesday, October 12, 2010, the State Library and Archives of Florida hosted the Archives Roundtable where several colleagues from the State Archives, Florida Memory Project, Florida A & M University Black Archives, Tall Timbers Research Center, Florida Supreme Court Library, The Capital Museum, and The Florida State University Libraries Special Collections and Archives met, shared ideas, had lively discussions on concerns and projects and learned about the collections and services of each repository, and discussed the importance of establishing partnerships.

Discussions focused on activities that will aid in improving the visibility of local archives and assist in expanding access to students, researchers, educators and the general public.

We shared more than ideas by bringing brochures, American Archives Month posters, CDs and flyers showcasing our work.

The Archives Roundtable decided to have quarterly meetings - those who want more information please contact Debra McGriff - [dmcgriff@dos.state.fl.us](mailto:dmcgriff@dos.state.fl.us).

... The Connecting to Collections Steering Committee, which includes members Corinne Jorgensen, Paul Mary, Kathy Braun, John Masseman, Graig Shaak, Melissa Kendrick, and Myriam Springuel, held a conference call on August 12. The purpose of the call was to review the outline for the Survey Report that will be submitted in the next round of IMLS "Connecting to Collections" grant applications. The Florida collaboration plans on submitting a proposal in that next round.

... IMLS, Heritage Preservation, and AASLH are presenting a series of free webinars on Connecting to Collections via <http://learningtimeevents.org/c2c/about/>. Webinar Series:

- \* Telling the Story of Your Collections to the Press, Oct. 28 at 11:30 am.
  - \* Using Social Media to tell Your Collections' Stories, Oct. 28 at 2 pm.
  - \* Getting the Most from your Bookshelf: Care of Art and Objects, Nov. 4 at 2 pm.
  - \* Funding for Collections Care, Nov. 22 at 11:30 am.
  - \* Public Outreach and Collections Care, Dec. 2 at 2 pm.
  - \* Getting the Most from your Bookshelf: Care of Paper, Photographs, and Audiovisual Collections, Dec. 9 at 2 pm.
- ... May 28 – June 1, Philadelphia, Seminar on the Acquisition of Latin American Library Materials present Preserving Memory: Documenting and Archiving Latin American Human Rights. Interested participants, presenters and panel organizers should send proposals to Nerea Llamas, [nllamas@umich.edu](mailto:nllamas@umich.edu). Deadline Feb. 1.

**RESEARCH**

IMLS has tapped Michigan State University to conduct a survey entitled "Oral History in the Digital Age." The goal is to better understand current and prospective practices employed by individuals who do the important work of gathering, preserving, disseminating and using oral history records. The survey can be found at [www.surveymonkey.com/s/oral\\_history](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/oral_history). ... The goal of Opening Archives is to enable institutions of all types to contribute EAD Finding Aids to [http://fclaweb.fcla.edu/Opening\\_Archives](http://fclaweb.fcla.edu/Opening_Archives).

**EVENTS / EXHIBITS**

Volunteers needed - The World Archives Project is helping to keep the world's stories alive. You can, too, by typing information from historical records into searchable online collections that are available to the public for free. <http://community.ancestry.com/wap/download.aspx?st=t>. ... The Boynton Beach City Library and the Art in Public Places Department will present an exhibit titled *From Julia Child's Kitchen* from Oct. 6 to Jan. 27 on the second floor of the Library. The exhibit will feature photography by Albie Walton. The photographs in the exhibit were taken in 1975 in Julia Child's kitchen for the cover of her book *Julia's Cookbook*. The display will include an assortment of local cookbooks and kitchen items from the 1950s to the 1970s.

**BOOK RELEASES**

Recent books released by the University Press of Florida include: *Crossing The Creek, The Literary Friendship of Zora Neale Hurston and Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings* by Anna Lillios, ISBN 978-0-8130-3500-0, \$29.95; *Seagull One, The Amazing True Story of Brothers To*



**Boynton Beach City Library Exhibit, From Julia Child's Kitchen.**

*The Rescue* by Lily Prellezo with Jose Basulto, ISBN 978-0-8130-3490-4, \$24.95; *Randy Wayne's White's Ultimate Tarpon Book, The Birth of Big Game Fishing*, edited by Randy Wayne White and Carlene Fredericka Brennen, ISBN 978-0-8130-3512-3, \$34.95; *Cypress Gardens, America's Tropical Wonderland, How Dick Pope Invented Florida* by Lu Vickers, ISBN 978-0-8130-3499-7, \$34.95; *Florida's Megatrends, Critical Issues In Florida, Second Edition* by David Colburn and Lance deHaven-Smith, ISBN 978-0-8130-3519-2, \$22.50. For info for any UPF

books, contact Stephanie Williams at [sw@upf.com](mailto:sw@upf.com) or 352.392.1351 x. 243.

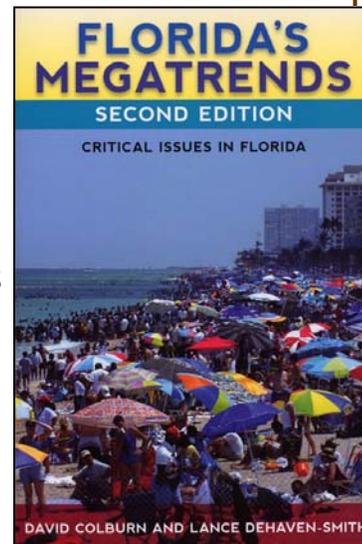
... Seth Bramson is working on the history of Miami Beach High School and is requesting members to notify him if you know anybody who went to, taught or worked at the school or to share any stories. Contact Seth at 305.757.1016 or [sbramson@bellsouth.net](mailto:sbramson@bellsouth.net).

**WEBSITE LINKS**

Funny photos from the archives on Flickr [www.flickr.com/groups/1107521@N21/pool/](http://www.flickr.com/groups/1107521@N21/pool/)

... Linear feet calculator [www.library.yale.edu/beinecke/manuscript/process/lconv.htm](http://www.library.yale.edu/beinecke/manuscript/process/lconv.htm).

Libraries challenged to prove their worth <http://www.libraryjournal.com/article/CA6728272.html>.



**A portrait by Mark Menendez hangs above the coffin of Pedro Menendez in the Mission Nombre de Dios Museum, St. Augustine. Photo by Daron Dean.**

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Complete list: [www.florida-archivists.org/officers\\_committees.htm](http://www.florida-archivists.org/officers_committees.htm)

## SFA MEMBERS @ SAA IN DC



L-R: Laura Capell, Koichi Tasa, Flo Turcotte, Katherine Fleming, Carl Van Ness, Maria Estorino, John Nemmers, Kevin Montgomery, Eddie Woodward and Burt Altman.

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If student, indicate school name

Mail to:  
Society of Florida Archivists  
P.O. Box 2746  
Lakeland, FL 33806-2746



We invite you to join the Society of Florida Archivists. Don't miss the continuing education opportunities offered by SFA each year, information about what's happening in archives in Florida in **The Florida Archivist** and the chance to mix with other archivists at the SFA Annual Meeting.

Specific benefits of Individual Membership are:

- ◆ Reduced registration fees for all of the Society's events.
- ◆ Subscription to *The Florida Archivist*
- ◆ Full voting privileges in elections and at the annual business meeting.
- ◆ Eligibility for leadership positions in the Society.
- ◆ Discount on selected archival publications.

Membership in the **Society of Florida Archivists** helps all of us keep in touch with important archival developments and make a valuable contribution to the profession within the State. We hope you will become a part of this effort!

**THE BLACK ARCHIVES OBITUARY & FUNERAL PROGRAM COLLECTION ANCHORS AFRICAN DIASPORA IN MIAMI**

The Black Archives, History and Research Foundation of South Florida, Inc. was founded in 1977 by Dorothy Jenkins Fields, Ph.D. Dr. Fields, historian and archivist, made it the mission of The Black Archives to not only preserve the documentary and photographic past of black South Florida, but to protect the present through the revitalization Miami's former black business and entertainment district, Overtown.

Since its inception, the Black Archives has collected obituaries and funeral programs from the black South Florida community for the past three decades and is pleased to announce that the collection of 1,396 obituaries and programs, in addition to funeral hymns, songs and prayers, thank you notes and newspaper clippings, is now fully processed and accessible online at <http://www.theblackarchives.org/archon/index.php?p=collections/controlcard&id=23&q=obituaries>. Although funeral programs make up the vast majority of the collection, we decided to include "Obituary" in the title of the collection to make it accessible to those who think of funeral programs as obituaries. Many more obituaries and funeral programs exist in the Black Archives personal paper collections.

As the landing place for more people of African heritage than any other city in America, the Black Archives Obituary and Funeral Program Collection is special. It documents the deaths

of three centuries of black South Floridians, including many black pioneers. Individually, these obituaries and programs are a rich source of genealogical information; collectively, they provide a unique tapestry of the African Diaspora and African American heritage. Moreover, because they are written by African Americans about African Americans, they provide an authentic eyewitness account of the black experience in South Florida.

The role of funeral programs in uncovering information about the African Diaspora and African American heritage has garnered attention from the press lately. An article printed in the January/February 2010 edition of *Archival Outlook* emphasized the importance of funeral programs in genealogical research by pointing out that African American obituaries have not always been published in mainstream daily newspapers. African American funeral program collections exist in Chicago, Alabama, Georgia, New Orleans, North Carolina, Texas, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and now, Miami.

Many people have helped make this collection possible. We wish to thank the many volunteers who helped process the collection, and the many people who donated programs, particularly Gwendolyn Welters and Dr. Edward J. Braynon. If you wish to donate a program or programs to the collection, please contact Archivist Nneka Hanchard or Assistant Archivist/Collection Manager Emily Gibson at 305-636-2390 or [archivist@theblackarchives.org](mailto:archivist@theblackarchives.org).

Society of Florida Archivists  
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*The Society of Florida Archivists is an organization of individuals and institutions who share a concern for the identification, preservation, and use of records of historical value. It is dedicated to the dissemination of information about such records and about sound archival methodology.*

## STUDY: AUDIO RECORDINGS FADING FAST

New digital recordings of events in U.S. history and early radio shows are at risk of being lost much faster than older ones on tape and many are already gone, according to a study on sound released in September.

Even recent history — such as recordings from 9/11 or the 2008 election — is at risk because digital sound files can be corrupted, and widely used CD-R discs only last three to five years before files start to fade, said study co-author Sam Brylawski.

“I think we're assuming that if it's on the Web it's going to be there forever,” he said. “That's one of the biggest challenges.” The first comprehensive study of the preservation of sound recordings in the U.S. being released by the Library of Congress also found many historical recordings already have been lost or can't be accessed by the public. That includes most of radio's first decade from 1925 to 1935.

Shows by singers Duke Ellington and Bing Crosby, as well as the earliest sports broadcasts, are already gone. There was little financial incentive for such broadcasters as CBS to save early sound files, Brylawski said.

Digital files are a blessing and a curse. Sounds can be easily recorded and transferred and the files require less and less space. But the problem, Brylawski said, is they must be constantly maintained and backed up by audio experts as technology changes. That requires active preservation, rather than simply

placing files on a shelf, he said.

The study, co-authored by Rob Bamberger, was mandated by Congress in a 2000 preservation law.

Those old analog formats that remain are more physically stable and can survive about 150 years longer than contemporary digital recordings, the study warns. Still, the rapid change in technology to play back the recordings can make them obsolete.

Recordings saved by historical societies and family oral histories also are at risk, Brylawski said. “Those audio cassettes are just time bombs,” Brylawski said. “They're just not going to be playable.”

There are few if any programs to train professional audio archivists, the study found. No universities currently offer degrees in audio preservation, though several offer related courses.

A hodgepodge of 20th century state anti-piracy laws also has kept most sound files out of the public domain before U.S. copyright law was extended to sound recordings in 1972. The study found only 14 percent of commercially released recordings are available from rights holders. That limits how much preservation can be accomplished, Brylawski said.

The study calls for changes in the law to help preservation. As it stands now, Brylawski said, copyright restrictions would make most audio preservation initiatives illegal, the authors wrote.—*by The Associated Press, [www.npr.org](http://www.npr.org).*