

## Expanding The Opening Archives Project

In the spring of 2008, the Florida Center for Library Automation (FCLA) and several partner organizations received funds from the State Library and Archives of Florida to continue training activities for archivists, librarians, curators and other cultural heritage professionals in Florida. As with the 2005-2006 project, *Opening Archives: Improving Access to Primary Sources in Florida*, the goals of this project were to raise the general level of technical expertise among archivists, to promote the use of the Encoded Archival Description (EAD) standard in Florida, and to increase archival information sharing in the state by encouraging cultural heritage repositories to contribute copies of their EAD finding aids to the statewide database hosted by FCLA, *Archives Florida*.

As a result of this funding, FCLA and its partners provided free training for 110 participants from 32 Florida repositories, and promoted best practices and standards for creating and sharing encoded archival descriptions.

In May-June 2008 the *Opening Archives* project trainers conducted three "Introduction to Encoded Archival Description" workshops in Florida.

The one-day workshops provided participants with an introduction to the EAD standard, and included hands-on exercises with typical tools, templates and workflows that trainees could use to create and share encoded archival finding aids. Workshop registration was free for any professionals or students in Florida. The workshops were held at Florida International University in Miami, Florida State University in Tallahassee, and the University of Miami in Coral Gables. The team of trainers included Chuck Thomas

(FCLA), John Nemmers (University of Florida), Salwa Patel (Florida Atlantic University), Melissa Finley Gonzalez (University of West Florida), and Eddie Woodward (FSU). A total of 54 trainees representing 34 Florida repositories participated in the three workshops

In addition to offering the "Introduction to EAD" workshops, the *Opening Archives* team agreed that the best way to raise the level of technical expertise among archivists in the state would be to host workshops offered by the Society of American Archivists (SAA). The advantage to these workshops is that they often are conducted by the very professionals who created the

technologies or methods that are covered in the training curriculum. The *Opening Archives* team also wanted to diversify the workshop topics, since the "Introduction to EAD" workshops had been offered multiple times around the state over the past two years. As feedback from those previous workshops had shown, many archivists and professionals were interested in education on technologies associated with EAD.

In July, Michael Fox and Kris Kiesling conducted two sessions of their SAA workshop, "Style Sheets for EAD." The free two-day workshop provided an

introduction to style sheets as they are used to format archival finding aids for the Web. Both Fox and Kiesling have served as members of the EAD development team since the creation of the standard, and they have authored several EAD style sheets that have been widely adopted in the archival community. A total of 17 trainees representing 12 Florida repositories participated in a workshop held at the University of Miami, and another 16 trainees representing 11 Florida repositories participated in a workshop held at the University of Central Florida in Orlando.



**Scott Schwartz conducts Archon training at St. Petersburg College.**

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Burt Altman

## Presidential Address

Hi Everyone.

Hope you're all having a good fall, despite the tumult of the political campaign and the turmoil in our nation's economy and throughout the state. On a positive note, however, several of our members participated in professional national and statewide archival activities. At SAA this summer in San Francisco, Deborah Walk, Tibbals Curator of the Ringling Circus Museum of Art and Curator of Historical Documents, co-

presented an excellent session, "Documenting and Displaying American Circuses and Carnivals: An Archivist's Perspective." Yours truly (*see photo below*) chaired and co-presented "Models for Collaboration: Providing Enhanced Access to Oral History." I'd also like to congratulate Maria Estorino, Deputy Archivist of the University of Miami Libraries Cuban Heritage Collection, and our former treasurer, on her election as the first chair of SAA's newest roundtable, the Latin American Caribbean and Cultural Heritage Archives Roundtable.

As you know from my announcement in the summer



newsletter, the first of three forums sponsored by the IMLS grant, "Connecting to Collections: Statewide Planning Grants." comprising museum, library, and archives

representatives, was

held in Miami on September 6. The purpose of the forums are to (1) to prepare a broad assessment of collections to identify needs in Florida's museums, libraries, archives, and the priority in which they should be addressed, and (2) to educate legislators and decision-makers about their responsibilities to preserve collections held in trust by government entities and private boards across the state. Michael Zaidman and Tomaro Taylor, two of our Executive Board Directors attended as our SFA delegates. Zaidman felt it was a great networking opportunity to talk to other professionals in these fields. The topics included hurricane preparedness, funding, security and volunteering – issues that overlap all three fields. It was suggested that perhaps one year the Society of Florida Archivists, Florida Library Association (FAM), and the Florida Association of Museums have a joint conference since the library, archives, and

museums fields share common concerns. Myriam Springuel, the FAM "Connecting to Collections" Project Manager, did an excellent job emceeding the conference. In addition to the Miami forum, and to obtain as much input as possible about collection needs, the planning grant will include forums that will be held in Orlando and Tallahassee in the near future.

It's not too early to begin thinking about nominations for the SFA Award of Excellence. This award honors an individual, institution, or exemplary program that has made outstanding contributions to the preservation of Florida's documentary heritage for the SFA Award of Excellence, which recognizes any person, institution, or exemplary program that has made outstanding contributions to the preservation of Florida's documentary heritage. The recipient need not be an SFA member, however: "any person or institution who has provided exemplary leadership in the field, promoted excellence through outstanding achievements, or contributed significantly to the betterment of the profession maybe considered for the award." Information about this prestigious award can be found at [florida-archivists.org/award.htm](http://florida-archivists.org/award.htm).

I would also like to mention that at the September 30th Executive Board meeting, Judith Beale, archivist at the University of Florida's Special Collections Department, was appointed SFA Secretary. Candice Odom, who has done a wonderful job the past two years scheduling and recording our conference calls, transcribing minutes, and keeping detailed records of Executive Board activities had to step down because her travel schedule at the State Archives of Florida made it difficult to participate in the organization. However, Candice plans to stay involved in SFA as much as she can. Thanks again, Candice, for a job well done!

Planning for next year's annual meeting in Gainesville continues. At the annual SAA meeting in August, Mike Zaidman spoke with Solveig De Sutter, SAA's Director of Education about SAA holding a pre-conference workshop in Florida. Vice President John Nemmers is looking into the possibility of arranging such a session that would combine a SAA workshop with the annual meeting or possibly holding the workshop in the fall. John and former SFA President Carl Van Ness comprise the local arrangements committee. In response to the discussion at last June's annual meeting, the Committee is also exploring the possibility of moving the annual meeting a little earlier next year. It will be held either the week of April 20-24 or April 27-May 1, 2009.

Stay tuned to the SFA webpage and Listserv for further details about next year's meeting and other news of interest to Florida's archival community. On the subject of the webpage, our website developers will soon be making changes to give it a more professional look. Additional information of interest to our members will be posted, including the Bylaws and Executive Board Minutes.

Hope everyone has a healthy and happy upcoming holiday season!

## Forum Recap - Miami

### Florida Connecting to Collections: Identifying priorities for collections care in Florida

Forty archeology, archives, historic house, library, museum and special collections professionals met at the Lowe Art Museum at the University of Miami on September 6, 2008. They learned

about the national and Florida's Connecting to Collections initiatives, and ways to work with legislators to gather support for collections care work. Participants then broke into small groups to identify priorities for collections in Florida. The groups worked first within disciplines to identify priorities and then across disciplines.

Priorities included: the need to identify institutions holding collections in Florida, creating an assessment of the state of those collections, creating regional networks to help secure collections before and after

emergencies, and the need for training for both professionals and volunteers. Many participants noted their surprise at how much collections-related issues are shared across disciplines.

The results of this first Forum will be reviewed at a second Forum slated for mid-January in Orlando. The Orlando Forum will refine the priorities and determine ways to identify and assess collections. A collections care workshop "Managing Archival Collections Without an Archivist on Staff" is planned on the morning of the Forum; Carla Summers, a Certified Archivist who has worked in Florida for 31 years will teach the workshop. A third Forum is slated for March 23, 2009 in Tallahassee; a collections care workshop is planned to coincide with that Forum as well. If you would like to participate in the upcoming Forums or workshops, or be placed on an e-mail list of interested people, please provide your address to FAM's Connecting to Collections Project Manager at Myriam@SpringuelConsulting.com. Further information at [www.flamuseums.org/](http://www.flamuseums.org/)

-Myriam Springuel, Florida Association of Museums Program Manager



**Participants shared concerns about collections both within disciplines and across disciplines and set priorities.**



## American Archives Month

The goal of American Archives Month is to raise awareness among key audiences of the value of archives and archivists. Those audiences may include policy makers, influential people within our communities, resource allocators, prospective donors, researchers, future archivists, the media and, of course, the general public. It is a time to focus on the importance of records of enduring value and to enhance public recognition for the people and programs that are responsible for maintaining our communities' vital historical records.

As this year's theme of American Archives Month is "Celebrating the American Record," FSU Libraries Special Collections, in its exhibit room, is showcasing its Civil War Era collections that document this turbulent period in American history and how it impacted life in Florida and Georgia.

Archivist Burt Altman selected documents and photos for the exhibit from such collections as the Love-Scarborough Papers, the Mary Elizabeth Thomas Civil War Papers, and the Major George R. Fairbanks Collection. One item from the Fairbanks collection is a sketch made by R. R. Stevenson, Surgeon in Charge of Hospitals of Anderson Station (part of Andersonville Prison) circa 1865, showing stockade, fortifications, hospitals, and camps.

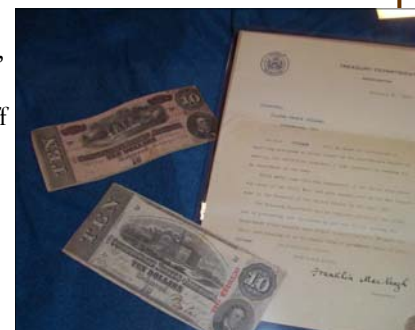
In assembling the exhibit, Burt was ably assisted by two Special Collections staff members. Associate University Librarian Bill Modrow selected a photo from FSU's Photographic Archives of Colonel V.M. (Valentine Mason) Johnson who taught at West Florida Seminary from 1860-1861, but left to join the Confederate Army, and an accompanying artifact, a U.S. Musket Percussion Rifle Barrel, a 58 caliber 42" barrel that was in circulation in 1855. Bill and

Library Associate Gina Woodward created labels for the exhibit and Gina carefully arranged the documents in each case.

In addition to the Civil War documents, one case contained photos and text to orient visitors to the archival profession, including what archivists do and what are archival records. There were also examples of tools and supplies to preserve and house materials, such as spatulas, bone folders, acid-neutral folders, and archival mending tape.

These collections will be on exhibit through October 31.

-Burt Altman



**The picture shows specimens of notes issued by the Confederate States of America with a letter sent from the Treasury Department Secretary when they were given to the Florida Female College in 1913.**



## Communiqué

### ANNOUNCEMENTS/EXHIBITS

A federal judge has ordered Vice President Dick Cheney to preserve all records that relate to his office and official duties pending the outcome of a lawsuit filed by Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington, D.C., joined by SAA and several other organizations. Judge Colleen Kollar-Kotelly noted in her decision the possibility of "irreparable injury" to the historical record if the vice president's office destroyed or failed to preserve records while the case proceeded. Visit [chronicle.com/news/article/5195/cheney-ordered-to-preserve-records-in-case-closely-watched-by-academic-groups](http://chronicle.com/news/article/5195/cheney-ordered-to-preserve-records-in-case-closely-watched-by-academic-groups).

... In celebration of the 2008 Florida Folk Festival, the State Archives of Florida has expanded its online resources to offer historic recordings of all the Florida Folk Festivals from 1954-1979 for free listening and downloading. Last summer, the State Archives offered a podcast of the very first recording of the Florida Folk Festival, recorded on reel-to-reel tape on May 6, 1954. The first recording features performances by local school children, representatives of the Seminole Tribe of Florida, folk singers, and opening remarks by festival director and renowned founder of the National Folk Festival, Sarah Gertrude Knott.

... New genealogy free-pages include:  
<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~flmanat2/>—  
Manatee County (FL)

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~rlwpcgs/>—  
West Pasco County (FL) Genealogical Society

Previously published in *RootsWeb Review*: 8 October 2008, Vol. 11, No. 20.

... The editors of *Library Quarterly*, *Archival Science* and *Museum Management & Curatorship* seek contributions for forthcoming special issues exploring the shared information needs and challenges facing libraries, archives and museums in the information age; the overlapping educational goals of library and information science, archival studies and museum studies programs; and areas of convergence for educators and professionals working to meet user needs in these institutions. Submissions due Dec. 1 and should be directed to the journal that most closely matches the subject of the article, [[marty.ci.fsu.edu/misc/cfp\\_digitalconvergence.pdf](http://marty.ci.fsu.edu/misc/cfp_digitalconvergence.pdf)].

... Lone arrangers - [[lonearrangers.ning.com](http://lonearrangers.ning.com)] work together while working alone - forums, blogs, wikis.

... Sustainability of Digital Formats Planning-  
[digitalpreservation.gov/formats](http://digitalpreservation.gov/formats).

... Museum professionals from around the country will congregate in Washington, D.C., next spring for AAM's Advocacy Day on Feb. 23–24. The free two-day program will begin with a day of advocacy training, followed by visits to Capitol Hill. Advocates will leave Washington equipped

to effectively state their case to public policy makers when a new Congress and administration will start work on issues that include funding for museum programs and the reauthorization of the IMLS.gov.

... AAM is offering museums complimentary copies of the "Small Museums and Accreditation II: Profiles of Small Accredited Museums" CD-ROM. It comprehensively details the accreditation process of nine small museums with annual operating expenses between \$100,000 and \$330,000, all of which were accredited within the past three to five years. To request a copy of "Small Museums and Accreditation II," e-mail your name and address to [smallmus-accred@aam-us.org](mailto:smallmus-accred@aam-us.org).

### CONFERENCES/WORKSHOPS

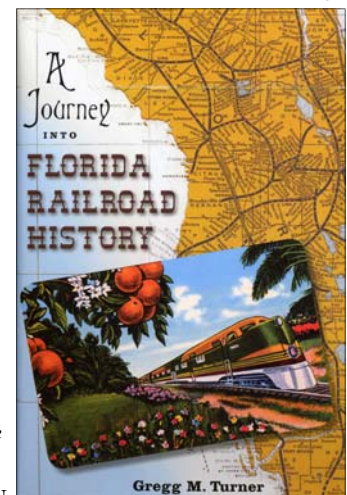
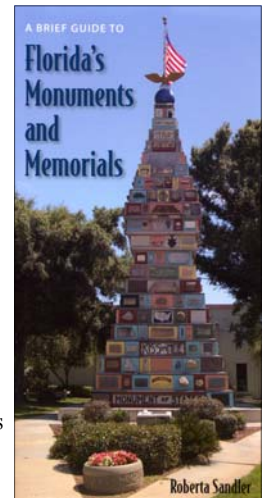
The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation will host a conference for metalworkers and others interested in 18th-century metalworking and its products on Nov. 16–19. "Metalworking for Revolution: Equipping the American Army" will explore the materials, technologies and skills of the blacksmiths, founders, silversmiths, tinsmiths and toolmakers who supplied the equipment needed to fight the American Revolution. Registration is \$295. Visit [history.org/conted](http://history.org/conted).

... The Society of American Archivists 73rd Annual Meeting takes place in August in Austin, TX.

... The American Association of Museums 2009 Annual Meeting takes place in Philadelphia, April 30-May 4.

### BOOKS

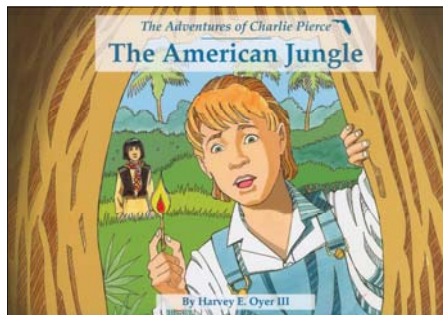
The University Press of Florida has released several books this summer including: *The First Hollywood, Florida and the Golden Age of Silent Filmmaking* by Shawn Bean [ISBN 978-0-8130-3243-6 \$27.50]; *Selling the Sunshine State, A Celebration of Florida Tourism Advertising* by Tim Hollis [ISBN 978-0-8130-3266-5 \$34.95]; *The Florida Life of Thomas Edison* by Michele Wehrwein Albion [ISBN 978-0-8130-3259-7 \$34.95]; *A Brief Guide to Florida's Monuments and Memorials* by Roberta Sandler [ISBN 978-0-8130-3258-0 \$21.95]; *A Journey into Florida Railroad History* by Gregg M. Turner [ISBN 978-0-8130-3233-7 \$27.50]; *When Steamboats Reigned in Florida* by Bob Bass [ISBN 978-0-8130-3235-1 \$27.50]. For all the books above, contact Stephanie Williams, Publicity Manager, 352-392-1351x. 243 or [sw@upf.com](mailto:sw@upf.com).



... The Boca Raton Historical Society is pleased to announce the publication *The Boca Raton Resort & Club: Mizner's Inn* (right). The first comprehensive scholarly history of one of Boca Raton's most significant historic landmarks, is being published by the History Press and was written by well known architectural historian Donald W. Curl. The book also includes 100 black and white images and a center insert of 20 color images of the hotel from 1926 through present day. The book retails for \$19.99 and is available via [historypress.net](http://historypress.net) or Susan Gillis, 561.395.6766 x.104.

... Florida history expert Harvey Oyer makes a significant contribution to children's literature with the publication of *The Adventures of Charlie*

*Pierce: The American Jungle* (\$19.95/109 pg) distributed by the Historical Society of Palm Beach County. Designed primarily for a 9 to 12 year old audience, readers of all ages will enjoy the epic adventures of the book's central character, Charlie Pierce as a child in the wild, untamed frontier of Florida. To order visit [historicalsocietypcb.org](http://historicalsocietypcb.org) or call 561.832.4164 ext 111. Lectures and book signings may be scheduled through [hoyer@historicalsocietypcb.org](mailto:hoyer@historicalsocietypcb.org) or by calling 561.379.2768.



#### **FUNDING**

The State Library and Archives of Florida announced that the University of Central Florida (UCF) Libraries' Central Florida Memory (CFM) project "Picturing the Past: Photographs and Postcards of Central Florida" was awarded one of the 2008-2009 Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grants in the amount of \$52,002. The grant will be used to build upon the successful Central Florida Memory project [[cfmemory.org](http://cfmemory.org)] which is the work of a consortium of regional historical societies and libraries, including the UCF Libraries' four partners in the grant: Museum of Seminole County History, Orange County Library System, Orange County Regional History Center, and Rollins College Olin Library. This year CFM welcomes two more partners: Stetson University's duPont Ball Library and Bethune Cookman University's Carl S. Swisher Library.

... The Friends of the State Library and Archives of Florida donated a microfilm reader printer to the State Archives of Florida's research room. The Minolta MS6000 is a powerful digital imaging system that allows researchers using microfilm and microfiche to read onscreen and print on paper, and to scan and digitize documents for electronic distribution. For more information on the Friends of the State Library and Archives of Florida, contact Jennifer Womble at (850) 245-6604, or visit the Friends' Web page at [dlis.dos.state.fl.us/friends/](http://dlis.dos.state.fl.us/friends/).

... The National Disaster Recovery Fund for Archives provides support for recovery of archival collections from major disasters. To make a donation - [archivists.org/katrina/contribute.asp](http://archivists.org/katrina/contribute.asp) or if you know someone that needs assistance - [archivists.org/news/NDRFA.asp](http://archivists.org/news/NDRFA.asp).

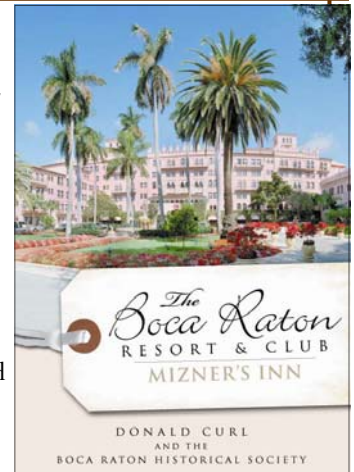
... Nineteen Florida libraries and multitype library cooperatives have been awarded a total of \$2,012,631 under the Library Services and Technology Act grant program.

... Applications for the annual Feb. 15 deadline of the Museum Assessment Program, [[aam-us.org/museumresources/map/index.cfm](http://aam-us.org/museumresources/map/index.cfm)] (MAP) will be available on Nov. 18. MAP helps museums achieve excellence by evaluating their strengths and identifying areas needing improvement.

... HISTORY™ awarded the Citrus County Historical Society, Inc. in Inverness, a \$9,440 *Save Our History* grant to partner with Citrus High School, and the Old Courthouse Heritage Museum—Educational Partners in Citrus County, including the Citrus County Library System, Central Florida Community College—Citrus Campus, Florida Public Archaeology Network and Gulf Archaeology Research Institute, Inc. for a project titled *Saving Our Rural Landscape* focuses on the core theme of a disappearing rural Florida area known as "Central Ridge" including the community of Lecanto. The Citrus County Historical Society, Inc. in conjunction with the Old Courthouse Heritage Museum is one of eleven history organizations nationwide that received *Save Our History* community preservation grants.

... If teachers and administrators in your area are struggling to fund visits to your museum, Target Corporation can help. AAM and Target officials recently collaborated to spread the word on the company's expanded field trip grants [[sites.target.com/site/en/corporate/page.jsp?contentId=PRD03-002537](http://sites.target.com/site/en/corporate/page.jsp?contentId=PRD03-002537)] program. For the 2008–2009 school year, Target is offering 5,000 field trip grants of up to \$800 each—triple the amount offered last year.

... The deadline has been extended until Nov. 15 for the Rome Prize, held by the American Academy in Rome. Thirty fellowships in such fields as architecture, design, historic preservation, conservation and visual arts are available for periods spanning from six months to two years. Winners will receive room and board at the academy's center in Rome, as well as a studio and a stipend. For information, please visit [www.aarome.org](http://www.aarome.org).



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**Complete list: [www.florida-archivists.org/  
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Part of the Society of Florida Archivists contingent at the Society of American Archivists Annual Meeting in San Francisco, August 2008. L-R: Michael Zaidman, John & Laura Nemmers, Flo Turcotte, Liz Konzak, Beatrice Skokan, Roger Cummings, Judith Beale, Maria Estorino, Kevin Logan, Koichi Tasa and Carl Van Ness.



**SFA Membership Application**

- \$ 20      Individual
- \$ 50      Institution
- \$ 200    Corporate
- \$ \_\_\_    Add'l Contribution

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Name

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Institution

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Address

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City                                  ST                  ZIP

\_\_\_\_\_  
Work Phone

\_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student (school - if applicable)

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

*Archivists know:*  
"The gentle art of what to keep." – overheard at SAA in San Francisco 2008.

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 in the State. We hope you will become a part of this effort!

*Expanding continued from Page 1*

In September, Chris Prom and Scott Schwartz conducted a workshop at St. Petersburg College entitled "Implementing DACS in Integrated Content Management Systems: Using Archon." Prom and Schwartz are archivists at the University of Illinois and two of the creators of the *Archon* archival information system. Participants used the Archon software to create collection descriptions, and learned how to import/export collection descriptions in Archon to/from other formats such as MARC and EAD. *Opening Archives* team members were particularly interested in this workshop because Archon is a free, open-source system that may be suitable for many EAD implementers in Florida. A total of 20 trainees representing 10 Florida repositories participated in this free workshop.

In conjunction with the Archon workshop, several members of *Opening Archives* team participated in a half-day meeting with consultant Chris Prom to discuss the Archon archival information system. Some of the participants were interested in adopting Archon at their institutions, so part of the discussion reflected individual needs. However, the consultation primarily focused on the group's interest in adopting Archon as the EAD authoring tool used when training new EAD implementers around the state. The group provided Prom with several technical issues that needed to be resolved prior to adoption of Archon for use in *Opening Archives* training. He agreed to correct

many of those issues in subsequent versions of the software, but indicated that the development and sustainability of Archon will be dependent largely on his ability to secure grant funding in the future. In the meantime, the *Opening Archives* team will continue to support existing authoring templates (available online at <http://www.fcla.edu/dlini/OpeningArchives/>), and will encourage archivists in Florida to experiment with Archon and provide feedback to the Archon developers.

As in the past, the Society of Florida Archivists continues to participate with the *Opening Archives* project, both directly and through the activities of individual members. The SFA Board agreed to fund the coffee and drinks provided at the Archon workshop, and SFA membership brochures were distributed to trainees. Several SFA members received training at each of the workshops, and many members of the *Opening Archives* team, including the regional trainers, are SFA members.

Future *Opening Archives* training activities will continue to focus primarily on EAD and related technologies and standards, including *Describing Archives: A Content Standard* (DACS).

-John Nemmers

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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.*



If you don't archive this  
newsletter, please recycle it.

## New Palm Beach County History Museum Opened

The Richard and Pat Johnson Palm Beach County History Museum opened to the public within the historic 1916 Courthouse in downtown West Palm Beach on March 16, 2008. Named in honor of Palm Beach residents Richard and Pat Johnson, who were both born and raised in Palm Beach County, the 3,500-square-foot museum is operated by the Historical Society of Palm Beach County.

“This museum will serve many thousands of children each year. This is an exceptional way to bring Florida history to life for our children, which in turn will give them a better sense of who they are,” said Mrs. Johnson, who also serves as the chairman of the Historical Society’s capital campaign to build and operate an endowment for the new museum. “Their new

appreciation will ultimately translate into pride in their community, self-respect, and respect for others. It makes you appreciate who we are and the advantages of where we live. There are few places in the world that are as beautiful as Palm Beach County.”

### **The Richard and Pat Johnson Palm Beach County History Museum**

300 North Dixie Highway, West Palm Beach

Open Tuesdays – Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sundays, 1 p.m.  
to 5 p.m.

Admission is free.

Phone 561.832.4164 or visit [historicalsocietypb.org](http://historicalsocietypb.org)



**Left: Palm Beach  
County interior  
exhibit.**

**Right: Exterior view  
of Museum.**

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