A Brief Description

Digital Work

Digitization at the University of Florida continues a long history of preservation work, ensuring that information in deteriorating volumes gains wider access and continues to be available for research. Cuban digitization projects began in 1996 with the production of CD-ROMs of the Diario de la Marina newspaper. The university is currently migrating those digital images, with full text searching, to the Internet as part of the Digital Library of the Caribbean (http://www.dloc.com/), a multi-nation project hosted by UF with funding from the US Dept. of Education, the State Dept., UNESCO, and private donors, as well as from partner institutions in more than eight Caribbean countries. Other Cuban content digitized by UF and available in the Digital Library includes the official legislative journals of Cuba’s pre-Castro Senate and House of Representatives, dating to the start of the 20th century. These holdings form the largest freely available collection of digitized Cuban law anywhere. In the larger UF Digital Collections (http://www.uflib.ufl.edu/ufdc/?t=cuba), there are even more digital resources about Cuba, covering agriculture, revolution and wars of independence and women’s studies; formats such as maps, newspapers and photographs as well as books and journals are available.

Contact: tel.: 352-273-2505.

Conservation

The Conservation Unit is responsible for the physical condition of the collections; services include repair and restoration, rebinding, deacidification, encapsulation, construction of protective enclosures and environmental monitoring. The unit also serves as a resource for the university and the general public for questions relating to the conservation of books, paper and photographic materials.

Contact: tel. 352-273-2835

Newspapers

Long runs of newspaper titles are available on microfilm. Many are either filmed by the UF Libraries itself or are purchased in the form of film.

For newspapers held in the UF Latin American Collection, consult: http://www.uflib.ufl.edu/lac/newspaperlist1.html

Long Term Projects

Projects in planning include preservation of over nine million pages of the Havana Province notary records dating from 1573 to 1900; also, there is work to produce a definitive bibliography of Cuban historical archaeology imprints published on the Island in the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries. Many of these pamphlet-sized publications, particularly those from the early 20th century, survive as single copies in the personal libraries of Cuba’s living and recently deceased historical archaeologists; UF will have access and permission to digitize appropriate materials as this further work develops.

Contact: tel.: 352-273-2768

Please support Cuban Studies Resources at the UF George A. Smathers Libraries.

Contact the Office of Development, George A. Smathers Libraries, University of Florida, P.O. Box 117000, Gainesville, FL 32611-7000. For more information or assistance, please call: 352-273-2505.
Cuban Collections at the University of Florida

A Brief Description

Background

The University Libraries began to develop and program collections to support Cuban studies in the late 1920s, and in 1952 under the national Farmington Plan, assumed a special responsibility for acquisitions. Printed works, manuscripts, maps, and microforms dealing with Cuba are divided primarily between the libraries’ very extensive Latin American Collection, the PK Yonge Library of Florida History, the M ap & Imagery Library, and the Rare Book & Manuscript units of the Special & Area Studies Collections Department. Holdings of Cuban material can also be found in the Marston Science Library, the Documents Department, the Price Library of Judaica, the Legal Information Center and all other campus library units.

Conservation treatments and actions are a long-standing part of UF programming. See below for details on that, and on digital work to enhance access – a rapidly expanding priority.

Overviews

Inquiries may be addressed to the appropriate collection at the University of Florida Libraries, Gainesville, Florida, 32611, USA. Contact: tel. 352-273-2764

Latin American Collection

www.uflib.ufl.edu/ lac

The Latin American Collection alone contains thousands of printed works and reels of microfilm concerning Cuba, and these holdings continue to grow rapidly each year. This reflects the University of Florida’s overall broad-based interest in Cuba, with many departments, from Agriculture to Fine Arts, History, Anthropology and Zoology, having research and/or teaching interests in Cuba. Theses and dissertations presented at the University reveal a wide focus on Cuba.

Contact: tel. 352-273-2745

Rare Books

http:// web.uflib.ufl.edu/ spec/ rarebook/ cuba/ cuba.htm

The UF Rare Book Collection holds a great array of materials on Cuba ranging from first editions of literary works to hundreds of titles relating to all aspects of Cuban society, such as religion, agriculture, slavery, natural history, description and travel, legal issues, political events, social institutions, customs and education. Many of the titles in the collection, both early and modern, are very rare or located only at the University of Florida.

Contact: tel. 352-273-2592

Manuscripts

http:// web.uflib.ufl.edu/ spec/ browseu_ ms.htm

Cuban manuscripts are conspicuous among the collections at the University of Florida. Since the 1950s, the university has given special focus to the acquisition of historical materials related to the Caribbean, and there are currently over twenty Cuban collections. Documents from the Spanish colonial period date to as early as 1639 and include records related to slavery and military affairs. The core of the Cuban manuscript collections covers the years since the Cuban War of Independence, 1895-1902. Several of the collections are from US citizens and businesses that invested in Cuba. Chief among them are the records of the Czarnikow-Rionda Company and its subsidiaries and affiliates in the Braga Brothers Collection. This remarkable collection documents the dynamic growth of the Cuban sugar industry in the century preceding the Castro Revolution of 1959. Other Cuban collections document American shipping interests in Cuba, slavery, natural history, aspects of Cuban society, such as religion, agriculture, literary works to hundreds of titles relating to all aspects of Cuban society, such as religion, agriculture, slavery, natural history, description and travel, legal issues, political events, social institutions, customs and education. Many of the titles in the collection, both early and modern, are very rare or located only at the University of Florida.

Contact: tel. 352-273-2719

Map & Imagery Library

http:// web.uflib.ufl.edu/ maps/

The UF Map & Imagery Library holds many sheet and digitized maps of Cuba within its Caribbean Map Collection. Cuban maps represent a substantial portion of the historical and archival treasures held by UF. Maps collected on Cuba date from 1579 through the present. These maps document Cuba’s colonial past, the importance of plantations, and the 1898 War of Independence. Many of these were originally published as maps independent of other publications; others were issued with atlases, books, government documents, shipping, railroad schedules, land promotions, etc. In addition to colonial history, thematic maps of Cuba show sugar mills and mining industries, road maps, tourist maps, and administrative and political maps before and after the 1959 Revolution. The library also has former Soviet Union topographic sets of Cuba in the Russian language. Many Caribbean maps including Cuba are also found in the Florida M ap Collection highlighting a shared heritage and colonial past.

Contact: tel. 352-273-2719

PK Yonge Library of Florida History

http:// web.uflib.ufl.edu/ spec/ pkyonge/ index.html

The Yonge Library of Florida History has always maintained materials on the history of the Cuba as it pertains to the Florida peninsula. Colonial correspondence between officials in Florida and their superiors in Havana make up a great proportion of the records for the Spanish colonial period, especially for the period 1784 to 1821. A reference section provides information on the holdings of many archives in Spain and elsewhere that are important to the study of colonial Cuba. The library also maintains print and microfilm collections documenting the Cuban cigar-worker community in Florida, the Spanish-American War, and relations between Cubans and Cuban Americans since 1960. The Florida Ephemerata Collection includes pamphlets, guides and steamship line brochures for travel to Cuba in the late 1800s and early 1900s. The Al Burt Papers, comprising interviews, research notes and articles by this award-winning Miami Herald foreign correspondent, reporter and columnist, contain significant photographs and audio tapes for Cuba circa 1965. All these materials and others speak to the close interconnection of Florida and Cuba from colonial times to the present.

Contact: tel. 352-273-2778