



Florida Tomorrow

George A. Smathers
Libraries



UF | FLORIDA
TOMORROW
THE CAMPAIGN FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA



“Florida Tomorrow is a place ...
where students and faculty work and imagine together in the libraries.”

“Florida Tomorrow is a day ...
when UF Libraries transform information into knowledge for faculty, students and scholars.”

“Florida Tomorrow is a belief ...
that libraries merge tradition and technology to bring information to the world.”

From the Dean

The library is the cornerstone of our information-based society, and its role has never had greater importance to UF's future.

We will meet that future by

- ▶ Building collections of international distinction that support the full range of UF teaching and research activities;
- ▶ Expanding and improving library services and facilities;
- ▶ Keeping abreast with ever-changing technological advances;
- ▶ Continuing to strive to set the standard for high quality service to all our users with outstanding reference and instruction from our knowledgeable faculty and staff; and
- ▶ Providing outstanding educational and cultural exhibits and programs.

The University of Florida George A. Smathers Libraries welcomes with enthusiasm the *Florida Tomorrow* capital campaign. With your support of the campaign, the George A. Smathers Libraries can meet the challenges that the future will bring to the libraries as we enhance our role in the university's successful mission of teaching and research.

As we meet these challenges and explore the opportunities of this century, our legacy to future generations must be a library system that acknowledges the real and evolving needs of its users — students, faculty, businesses and a broad array of other organizations and citizens throughout Florida and beyond.

We will strengthen our relationship with faculty and expand our support for the curriculum with both new and existing library resources, in print and electronic form. We will continue to collaborate with the colleges and other campus units to promote the information access goals of the whole institution and position UF to address the rapid societal changes being advanced by technology.

The libraries must partner with individuals, corporations and foundations to secure necessary funding to support these goals and meet the future needs of our users.

The libraries continue to evolve, grow and adapt to the changing needs of our users. Your continued input and feedback help us refine our goals and your generosity makes it possible to achieve them. We appreciate your past assistance and look forward to working with you now and in the exciting future. Your support for the libraries will help us enhance the undergraduate experience, sustain faculty instruction and research, and reinforce outstanding graduate education. Numerous naming opportunities throughout our facilities and collections are available to enhance and expand collections and further undergraduate and graduate student education. Imagine the possibilities of *Florida Tomorrow*!

Sincerely,
Judith C. Russell
Dean, University Libraries

Our Vision of Tomorrow

Great universities require great library systems.

The University of Florida's original library — built in 1927 and now Smathers Library — was one of the first buildings on campus. The system has since grown to nine campus libraries, seven of which comprise the George A. Smathers Libraries. UF's libraries have attained many milestones: the addition of the one-millionth volume in 1963; construction of the graduate research library — now Library West — in 1967; construction of the Marston Science Library in 1987; migration from the card catalog to an electronic catalog in 1987-88; celebration of the four-millionth volume in 2003; and the reopening of the remodeled and expanded Library West in 2006.

What lies ahead? The library of the future will continue to serve as “information central,” preserving the riches of the past and assisting users to access information that arrives daily in printed and electronic formats. While the academic library of the 21st

century will continue to provide a haven for research, imagination and discovery within its walls, the “library without walls” will become increasingly important. Scholars in Gainesville and throughout the Gator Nation globally will access more and more electronic resources remotely, wherever they are.

UF's libraries have forged ahead in diversity of holdings and commitment to preserve the irreplaceable productions of centuries of great minds. Library West's reopening with state-of-the-art facilities and technological excellence — including the information commons area and a digital media center — brings sophisticated hardware and software to students.

Libraries are the heart of the university, delivering information to the whole community, wherever and whenever needed. A great library is essential to a great university. Your support of the libraries strengthens the University of Florida ... and *Florida Tomorrow*.





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