NEW PATHWAYS TO ACCESS
The Institutional Repository and University Archives as Partners in Advancing Access to Materials

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ABSTRACT

While University Archives (UA) maintains its traditional role of acquiring and curating collections of significance to the university community and the Institutional Repository (IR) supports access and reuse of these unique materials, the IR and the UA at Florida International University work closely with university departments, centers and museums to:

• Enhance access to archival materials and collections
• Support student learning
• Support new pathways to publishing scholarship

OPPORTUNITIES

• Provide access to old formats, new formats and new scholarship.
• Outreach and education of the university community on the importance of University Archives.
• Demonstrating departmental achievements in a visible way.
• Showcasing student success.

CHALLENGES

• Helping the university community understand the need for archiving high quality born digital materials.
• Supporting emerging formats – What does preservation look like?

ENHANCE ACCESS TO ARCHIVAL MATERIALS

While many archival materials are made accessible via the university’s digital repository system dPanther, the Institutional Repository, a Digital Commons repository, provides unique opportunities for sharing and displaying collections.

The Department Of Theatre: Using the event structure, the complete production history from 1975-present was easily organized and displayed using a timeline format. This supports easy browsing of over 1,600 photographs, programs, postcards and posters.

SUPPORT STUDENT LEARNING

With enhanced access to UA materials through the IR, instructors and students have more opportunities to:

• Create a virtual space for scholarship and primary source materials that can be easily integrated into coursework.
• Create tangible interdisciplinary connections.
• Create context for these collections.

Frost Art Museum: A collection of 59 Exhibition Catalogs along with over 100 digitized recorded lectures by notable artists from 1981-present serves as a unique resource for students in the Arts.

NEW PATHWAYS TO PUBLISHING SCHOLARSHIP

• Capability to preserve and promote scholarship from the performing arts.
• Provide students and faculty a new platform for publishing course related scholarship.

Miami Beach Urban Studios (MBUS) 3D Collection: Collection and display of the groundbreaking 3D-printed Tactile Neighborhood Model (or plan) designed to assist the blind and visually impaired in their orientation and mobility.

Department of Theatre Final Projects: Collection and display of originally written and performed theatrical productions.

MFA Exhibition Catalogs: Access to the MFA exhibition catalogs displayed at the Patricia and Phillip Frost Art Museum.