



Suncoast Information Specialists Info

Vol. 32 #1 January/February 2017

SIS FLA Scholarship

Going to FLA's Annual Conference? Don't forget the SIS FLA Scholarship. Information coming out soon!

Special Thanks

Special Thanks to our membership! Hope everyone had wonderful holidays.

Did You Know?

Suncoast Information Specialists is a professional association of librarians and information specialists in the greater Tampa Bay area, dedicated to providing an open forum for the discussion of mutual concerns and the exchange of ideas in the realm of information management and dissemination. For membership forms and directions on how to join, please go to:
<http://www.suninfospec.org/membership>

Check out the Tidbits!

Catch up on some local library gossip below!

Upcoming Meeting

When: TBD

Time: TBD

Where: Florida History & Genealogy Library
2nd Floor, West Building
John F. Germany Public Library
900 N. Ashley Dr.
Tampa, Florida 33602-3704

Directions: <http://www.hcplc.org/hcplc/locations/jfg/>

Program: TBD

Cost: \$5-10.50, optional, see meeting page below for info

RSVP: <http://www.suninfospec.org/meeting>

Questions?: Please contact Carrie Cullen at
carriecullen@mail.usf.edu

December Meeting Overview

The December meeting is our end of the year social where members and guests mingle, eat great food, drink delicious beverages, and be merry. Thanks everyone for another great year in SIS!

Meeting minutes can be found here:

<http://www.suninfospec.org/meeting/minutes>

Meeting photos can be found here:

<http://www.suninfospec.org/photos>

Tidbits

- **Congrats are in order!** SIS member, **Alicia Long**, has **been appointed as Chair of the 2018 Pura Belpré Selection Committee**, one of the ALA Youth Media Awards.
- **Palm Harbor Library** is offering a new service to teens, **a short story vending machine (!!)**, created by reference librarian Samma Fagan. **Check out the details here:** <http://phlteens.wixsite.com/interplay/single-post/2016/11/16/Bite-Sized-Fiction>
- **University Area to get a new library!** After nearly a decade since discussions began, officials finally broke ground on the \$9.2 million building. **It is scheduled to open Fall 2017.** Interested to learn more? Check it out here: <http://www.tampabay.com/news/humaninterest/university-area-gets-boost-with-new-library/2306648>
- **Winner of the creative fundraising award, Eastside Elementary**, Brooksville. Why? Any student who raised \$10 through the online program Whooo's Reading? **was able to participate in a pie eating contest.** The fundraised money will go towards purchasing new books for the school's library.
- Who doesn't love a weekly market? **Tasty Tuesdays is New Port Richey Library's weekly organic market.** The fare includes locally grown veggies and other handmade sundries. **It runs rain or shine from 10am to noon each Tuesday.** More details here: <http://www.tampabay.com/things-to-do/events/harvest-time-arriving-snowbirds-spur-libraris-tasty-tuesdays-market/2305615>

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Employment Opportunities - Please post employment opportunities to the SIS-L elist by sending an email to sis-l@mailman.it.usf.edu. The list reaches 270+ subscribers in the Tampa Bay area. See <http://www.suninfospec.org/list> for additional information about subscribing or posting to the list.

Email: suninfospec@gmail.com

List: sis-l@mailman.it.usf.edu

URL: <http://suninfospec.org>

Facebook:
<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=19952808186&ref=ts>

LinkedIn: <http://www.linkedin.com/groups/Suncoast-Information-Specialists-SIS-3989406>

Questions about SIS? Feel free to contact any one of the SIS Officers listed to the left of this page!



Suncoast Information Specialists Info

Vol. 32 #2 March/April 2017

SIS FLA Scholarship

Going to FLA's Annual Conference? Don't forget the SIS FLA Scholarship. Information below!

Special Thanks

Special Thanks to speaker Bill Harris and the Florida History & Genealogy Library!

Did You Know?

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SFA Annual Meeting

Not sure what SFA stands for? Find out below in the Events section!

Upcoming Meeting

When: April 22nd 2017, Saturday

Time: 12:00-3:00pm

Where: Pioneer Florida Museum and Village
15602 Pioneer Museum Rd
Dade City, FL 33523

Directions: <http://tiny.cc/1rcoiy>

Program: The program for this meeting will be a 2 hour guided tour that covers several historical buildings: one-room school house, church, 1860's Overstreet House, General Store and train depot.

Cost: Tour is \$5, food for students is \$5, members/guests \$10, see meeting page below for info

RSVP: <http://www.suninfospec.org/meeting>

Questions?: Please contact Carrie Cullen at carriecullen@mail.usf.edu

February Meeting Overview

After a tour of the Florida History & Genealogy Library spaces, Genealogy Librarian Bill Harris discussed the genealogy databases and tools available to library patrons. Using real life examples, he walked us through the successes and frustrations of genealogy research. The Florida History & Genealogy Library is the largest genealogy collection in Florida and worth checking out. They offer classes and demonstrations on the various tools alongside pro research tips and tricks.

Meeting minutes can be found here:

<http://www.suninfospec.org/meeting/minutes>

Meeting photos can be found here:

<http://www.suninfospec.org/photos>

Tidbits

- **New life for the historic Free Library?** The residents of Tampa Heights have asked the Tampa-Hillsborough County Library system to move children's materials from the downtown library to the 100 year old Carnegie-funded Free Library. The move would create a fun and educational space for the growing neighborhood as well as breathe new life into the poorly used building. Read more here: <http://www.tampabay.com/opinion/editorials/editorial-new-life-for-historic-tampa-library/2312872>; <http://www.tampabay.com/news/localgovernment/tampa-heights-makes-pitch-for-childrens-library/2311730>
- **Bartow Library has updated their main page to serve as both catalog access and link to city, state, and Internet resources.** You can check it out at www.cityofbartow.net/library

Society of Florida Archivists 2017 Annual Meeting

Society of Florida Archivists
2017 Annual Meeting
May 10-12, 2017
St. Petersburg, FL

***Working Smarter Together:
Collections, Communities and Collaborations***

Call for proposals: Deadline for submissions March 24, 2017
Early registration: Deadline is April 15, \$100
Regular registration: from April 15 – May 5, \$115
Onsite registration: \$125 (lunch only if available)
Student registration: \$50

For further information please visit the SFA website at <https://floridaarchivists.wildapricot.org/>

Call for Proposals

Submissions may include, but are not limited to, the following session formats:

1. Papers. 10-15 minutes in length and typically combined into a 45-minute session followed by a comment-and-discussion period.
2. Papers in a complete panel session. Two or three papers with a similar focus and a chair that form a 45-minute session followed by a comment-and-discussion period.
3. Discussion-based panel sessions. These sessions, generally 30-45 minutes in length, combine conversations with visual or media presentations (e.g., videos, films, physical items from collections) followed by opportunities for group discussion. One to three presenters may offer a single session.
4. Lightning talks. Five-minute talks given by individuals in rapid succession, followed by Q&A.
5. Poster sessions. Visual displays of projects, activities, or applied or theoretical research that are presented by graduate students and newer professionals.
6. Other formats. Possibilities include hands-on demonstrations or other presentations that spark conversation.

Submit a Proposal

Submit proposals via email to Jim Schnur at schnur@mail.usf.edu. Questions may be directed to this email address or (727) 873-4094.

Events

- **Bartow Library is celebrating their 120th anniversary this month!** The formal anniversary is Wednesday, March 29th and they will host a birthday cake event as well as providing certain FREE services throughout the day. If you have time, please stop by and join in on the fun!
- The 3rd Annual **Brooksville Library 5K and Kids Fun Run will take place on Saturday, March 11 beginning at 8 a.m.** This run benefits the Friends of the Library of Hernando County and the YMCA of the Suncoast. The 5K route starts downtown at the Main Library (238 Howell Avenue, Brooksville, Florida 34601) and continues through the scenic hills of historic downtown Brooksville. The Kids Fun Run immediately follows. 5K participants receive a race t-shirt, goody bag, and post-race food and drink at the after party in Hernando Park. All Kids Fun Run participants receive a ribbon and the top three male and female runners receive awards. There will be many other prizes and giveaways presented during the after party in the park! Registration is \$25 for adults, \$15 for students, and the Kids Fun Run is free! Registration is available online through 7 p.m. March 10 and will be available in person on race day.
- **Friends of the Library of Hernando County Wine Tasting Fundraiser:**
The Friends of the Library of Hernando County are holding a Wine Tasting Fundraiser at the Strong Tower Winery in Spring Hill on Saturday, March 25 from 7 p.m. until 9 p.m. This fun evening will include wine tastings, appetizers, a 50/50 raffle, and a Chinese Auction. Proceeds will benefit the Hernando County Public Library System. Tickets are \$15 per person or \$25 per couple. Tickets to the event as well as raffle tickets can be purchased at all Hernando County Public Library branches, the Little Red Schoolhouse Bookstore (1208 Kenlake Avenue, Spring Hill), and at the Strong Tower Winery. The Strong Tower Winery is located at 17810 Forge Drive, Spring Hill, FL 34610.

2017 SIS FLA Scholarship – Call for Applications

Scholarships to Attend 2017 FLA Conference, May 10-12, 2017

Application deadline: April 3, 2017

Announcement of winners: April 8, 2017

The Suncoast Information Specialists is accepting applications for two student and one librarian/staff scholarship to attend the 2017 Florida Library Association Conference (<http://www.flalib.org/2017-fla-annual-conference>) at the Caribe Royale Hotel, Orlando, Florida. The maximum amount of the award is \$200.

Scholarship Eligibility

- Student Applicants must be enrolled in a Master's program (or recently graduated with a Master's degree in 2016) at the University of South Florida.
- All staff (Librarians and Paraprofessionals) employed in a Florida library. Engaged librarians in the profession, but not currently employed in a library, are eligible.

- Applicants must be members of Suncoast Information Specialists, (<http://www.suninfospec.org/membership>).

Student Requirements

- Fill out online application which includes an essay.
- Submit a current resume.
- Successful grant recipients will share their experiences at the conference with fellow SIS members by writing an article for the bi-monthly SIS newsletter.
- Grant Recipients will submit an expense report following the conference for reimbursement up to \$200.
- If you are a student employed in a library, please submit a student application.

Staff (Librarians and Paraprofessionals) Requirements

- Fill out online application which includes an essay.
- Submit current resume and a one page letter of recommendation from a library director, immediate supervisor, or manager.
- Engaged librarians should submit a personal and professional letter of recommendation.
- Successful grant recipients will share their experiences at the conference with fellow SIS members by writing an article for the bi-monthly SIS newsletter.
- Grant Recipients will submit an expense report following the conference for reimbursement up to \$200.

Guidelines

- Deadline for submission is April 3, 2017.
- Winners will be notified on April 8, 2017.

Applications and requirements on the SIS website: <http://www.suninfospec.org/awards>

If you have any additional questions, please contact the SIS Scholarship Committee Chair, Hal Harmon: hgharmon@gmail.com

Job Opportunities

Branch Services Coordinator

The Hernando County Public Library System is seeking a full-time Branch Services Coordinator. Under the direction of the Library Services Manager, this position is responsible for the direct supervision of four Library Branch Supervisors and coordinates the operation and activities of all public services staff. The Hernando County Public Library System consists of four branch locations throughout Hernando County. This Position serves as a member of the Library Services management team and collaborates closely with the Library Services Manager on communication strategies, community engagement plans, personnel planning, staff development, policies and procedures, and long-term and strategic planning.

Requirements: The position requires five (5) years of professional library experience with demonstrated supervisory ability, including minimum four (4) years supervising a team or department of library staff required. Additional customer service, management, writing, communications, or public relations experience is desirable.

Salary Range: \$54,600.00 - \$88,462.40

To Apply: www.hernandocounty.us/HR/

Part-Time Library Services Assistant

The Hernando County Public Library System currently has four (4) Part-Time Library Services Assistant Positions available. These are entry level public service positions perfect for LIS Students or others looking to gain Public Library experience.

Requirements: High School diploma or equivalent (GED), over two (2) years of experience in the delivery of library services or any combination of education and experience equivalent to three (3) years of direct delivery of customer service.

Starting Salary: \$9.89 per hour

SIS Officers/Board 2017

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thebookishbull@gmail.com

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Director B

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bill@findalibrarybook.com

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betsyking47@gmail.com

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Email: suninfospec@gmail.com

List: sis-l@mailman.it.usf.edu

URL: <http://suninfospec.org>

Facebook:

<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=19952808186&ref=ts>

LinkedIn: <http://www.linkedin.com/groups/Suncoast-Information-Specialists-SIS-3989406>

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Suncoast Information Specialists Info

Vol. 32 #3 May/June 2017

SIS Scholarship Winners

Congratulations to our SIS FLA Scholarship Winners! Check them out below!

Special Thanks

Special Thanks to host Pioneer Florida Museum and Village!

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Librarian Spotlight

Longtime NPR Library Director Susan Dillinger has recently retired. Read about her storied career below!

Upcoming Meeting

When: June 19th 2017, Monday

Time: 6:00-8:30pm

Where: The Art Institute of Tampa
4401 N Himes Ave #150
Tampa, FL 33614

Directions: <http://tiny.cc/klkqky>

Program: Library Journal Mover and Shaker 2017, Theresa Burress, New College of Florida, will be speaking about her work with digital humanities.

Cost: Food for students is \$5, members/guests \$10, see meeting page below for info

RSVP: <http://www.suninfospec.org/meeting>

Questions?: Please contact Carrie Cullen at carriecullen@mail.usf.edu

April Meeting Overview

SIS members and guests were treated to a walking tour of the Pioneer Florida Museum and Village, an open-air museum in Dade City, Florida in Pasco County. The museum complex includes Overstreet House, a one-room schoolhouse, a church, a train depot, a train engine, and a museum exhibition of tools, household items, antiques and farm equipment.

Meeting minutes can be found here:

<http://www.suninfospec.org/meeting/minutes>

Meeting photos can be found here:

<http://www.suninfospec.org/photos>

Events

- There is still time to register for the **SLA 2017 Annual Conference, June 16-20 in Phoenix, Arizona!** This premier event is for information professionals who want to develop essential skills, network with colleagues, explore noteworthy trends in knowledge and information managements, and access leading information product and service providers at the INFO-EXPO. **More info can be found here:** <https://www.sla.org/attend/sla-2017-annual-conference/>

SIS FLA 2017 Scholarship Winners

- We are pleased to announce the winners of the 2017 SIS FLA Scholarships. We have awarded two student scholarships and one librarian/staff scholarship to attend the 2017 FLA Conference in Orlando, FL (May 10-12). **Student Winners are Adam Berkowitz (USF) and Arlene Haessler (USF).** The **Librarian/Library Staff Winner is Amanda Moldan, Seminole County Public Library.** All of the applicants showed a strong commitment towards the library profession. Each scholarship will be for \$200.00 to cover conference-related expenses.

With these scholarships we are supporting the professional activities and learning opportunities for both students who will soon be working as professional librarians and those already in the profession. After the conference, awardees will write about their experiences in an upcoming SIS newsletter. We look forward to their reports. A special thanks to Hal Harmon, William Harris, and Samantha Trinh, who served on the Scholarship Committee, and to the SIS Board. Without their help, this program would not be a success. Again, congratulations to Adam, Arlene, and Amanda.

Librarian Spotlight – NPR Library Director, Susan Dillinger

On March 31, 2017 the New Port Richey (NPR) Public Library, and the community it serves, celebrated the retirement of longtime Library Director, Susan Dillinger. Susan began working for the New Port Richey Public Library in 1990 and served as interim City Manager in 2014. In 2014, Susan was awarded FLA's Librarian of the Year award. That same year, the West Pasco Chamber of Commerce awarded her the Public Servant of the Year.

Under Susan's leadership, the New Port Richey Public Library excelled at both a local and national level. In 2006, the New Port Richey Public Library was awarded FLA's first ever Library of the Year award. Library Journal awarded the New Port Richey Public Library 4 stars in 2013, and five stars in 2016.

Much of what Susan has accomplished is still being seen on a daily basis in the New Port Richey Public Library and around the state of Florida. Susan has mentored many young librarians on how to work in the field and be an advocate for communities. The New Port Richey Public Library has offered an LGBTQ film series each June, despite political resistance from former City officials. The weekly Tasty Tuesdays farmer's market is unique to the New Port Richey Public Library in that it offers healthy, organic produce to residents in addition to providing a place for local farmers to sell their goods.

The classes, workshops, and events that have been offered at the New Port Richey Public Library over the past 27 years show that Susan has always had the ambitions of the public in mind. Susan has encouraged those around her to think outside of the box and be bold in considering what a library can be.

Susan is now retired; nevertheless, her influence persists. – Kayla Kuni

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LinkedIn: <http://www.linkedin.com/groups/Suncoast-Information-Specialists-SIS-3989406>

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Suncoast Information Specialists Info

Vol. 32 #4 July/August 2017

SIS Scholarship Reports

Check out SIS FLA Scholarship Winner's conference reports below!

Special Thanks

Special Thanks to host Vilma Butym and speaker Theresa Burress!

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Features-Guest Column!

Be on the lookout below for a guest column – Libraries are Good for Our Country by Gene Coppola!

Upcoming Meeting

When: August TBD

Time: TBD

Where: TBD

Directions: TBD

Program: TBD

Cost: Food for students is \$5, members/guests \$10, see meeting page below for info

RSVP: <http://www.suninfospec.org/meeting>

Questions?: Please contact Carrie Cullen at carriecullen@mail.usf.edu

June Meeting Overview

Humanities Librarian and a 2017 Library Journal Mover & Shaker, Theresa Burress, spoke about her work with digital humanities. Miss the meeting? No worries, her meeting slides can be found posted here!

<http://www.suninfospec.org/meeting/pastmeetings/2017-06-19>

Meeting minutes can be found here:

<http://www.suninfospec.org/meeting/minutes>

Meeting photos can be found here:

<http://www.suninfospec.org/photos>

Tidbits

- Bartow Public Library is working on providing Hotspots available for checkout to Bartow library users. Available through T-Mobile, they hope to give their community an opportunity for Internet access in the remote parts of their area lacking direct lines. Other Polk County Libraries - Lakeland and Winter Haven - have already begun this device checkout to great success. They hope to have hotspot devices available by mid-July or August 2017.
- Jessica Szempruch recently "emerged" from the ALA 2017 Emerging Leaders program, following her successful poster presentation at ALA Annual in Chicago. Jessica's Emerging Leaders project had her working alongside colleagues from four other institutions on behalf of the ALA Learning Round Table (LearnRT) to develop conference presentation tips and best practices, as well as map out a process for a presentation review mentoring service. Deliverables created by the group will be available for future presentation-goers via ALA's conference website and LearnRT. Jessica welcomes questions regarding this project, or Emerging Leaders in general; please feel free to email her at jessica.szempruch@gmail.com

SIS FLA 2017 Scholarship - Conference Summaries

Adam E. Berkowitz

I had three goals in mind when entering the conference on May 10, 2017: 1) network with professionals attending the conference, 2) gain a better understanding of what librarians do beyond what I have been taught in my classes, and 3) form an understanding of what this conference has to offer so that I can report it to the Suncoast Information Specialists. This conference far exceeded my expectations, and the value of what I have gained cannot be measured.

While attending the conference, I went to several presentations. Many of which dealt with how to prepare college students for their responsibilities and obligations. As librarians, we consider the success of every student to be of the utmost importance. However, we must remember that although teaching students how to use library resources is our primary role in the university system, we also concern ourselves with their mental and physical well-being as well as how to prepare them for their lives proceeding their graduation. We can be more effective in accomplishing these tasks by not only investing time in our own professional development, but also through interdepartmental collaborations. Librarians should be called upon by professors to explain to students how to use the library resources, and librarians should take the initiative to inform certain professors and departments of their content specialty. Libraries should establish cooperative events with career services as well as writing centers, and student organizations. All of these ideas, and more which were suggested during conference workshops will lead to a more integrated and engaging library experience for the students. These initiatives will benefit the students during their studies at the university and as graduates while they seek employment.

I also learned a tremendous amount about the roles of academic and public libraries in emergency situations. The top priority of a library in such a situation is to provide a sense of safety and a return to normalcy. Libraries are supposed to have contingency plans for fires, hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, earthquakes, blackouts, insect and pest infestations, and more. I, personally, found the lengths to which libraries go in order to protect their patrons to be inspiring. I was especially impressed with the role that the Ferguson Public Library played during the riots in

Ferguson, Missouri in 2014 and 2015. During this period of civil upheaval, schools were temporarily closed; however, the public library remained open so as to provide a safe venue for students to meet with their teachers, and continue with their coursework. The library provides a sanctuary to its patrons in times when life is interrupted by severe, life threatening events. It is important to understand the role in which the librarian may find him/herself, and it is important to surround one's self with reliable staff members who can react effectively in times of emergency.

The opportunities to network with other librarians was just as important as the time I spent in the workshops. By speaking with other librarians, many of whom were at one time students at the University of South Florida like myself, I was able to compare their library school experiences with my own. I received feedback on the coursework I am pursuing, and furthered my understanding of how my newly acquired knowledge and skills will be applied in the field. I consider myself to be lucky, and am most appreciative for the opportunity afforded to me by the Suncoast Information Specialists. Without this opportunity, I most likely would not have met such fantastic individuals who strive to not only make librarianship more formidable, but also wish to invest in me as a student. I have learned that these librarians see MLIS students as a breath of fresh air, and individuals to whom they can pass on the torch. Upon retiring, librarians want to be ensured that library school graduates are fully prepared to carry on the responsibility of serving the institution's patrons. I, for one, look forward to fully preparing myself to continue and further such a legacy.

Arlene Haessler

First, I would like to thank the Suncoast Information Specialists for awarding me with the scholarship to attend the FLA Annual Conference this year. As an online student in a rural area with an interest in academic and medical librarianship I have few opportunities to interact with LIS professionals working in those areas, nor with my fellow students, professors and future colleagues. Last summer I was able to attend two conferences, the Science Boot Camp for Librarians Southeast and the SAA in Atlanta. I also attended the small, but mighty Florida Health Sciences Library Association meeting in March, but I did not make it to the FLA Annual Conference last year and I did not think I would be able to afford it this year. Then I was awarded the SIS scholarship and asked to volunteer for our department with some reimbursement and with this assistance was able to attend!

I spent many hours looking through the schedule and trying to decide how I could be in two places at once (sometimes more). I settled on a few primary interests and decided to play it by ear the rest of the time. Wednesday morning began with the new attendee orientation and then the keynote speaker, Toni Tipton-Martin. The story of her work was fascinating and an inspiration. My next stop was the section, *So You Want to be a Faculty Librarian?* This was such a useful presentation, the presenters described the process for hiring in their university libraries, but also were able to generalize it a bit so that I left with a deeper understanding of the expectations if I were ever to land that coveted academic library interview.

I was interested in a couple of committees and saw a familiar name from the Science Boot Camp on the Leadership Development Committee. One of the nicest qualities of FLA is how small it is, I was able to track Renaine Julian from FSU down easily. After speaking with him about the committee, I decided to attend the Library Leadership Roundtable that afternoon and the LDC's meeting the next morning. While I am far from a leadership role in LIS, I am currently trying to manage the Keys Chapter of the Florida State Massage Therapy Association (FSMTA) to get them prepared for when I move on. We have struggled for years with bringing in new members as well as having them take on leadership roles (I think this is a familiar problem with any volunteer run association). With the LDC I was hoping I would both gain some inspiration for inspiring leadership in my current colleagues as well as build transferable skills and I was not

disappointed. Wednesday evening my fellow USF students and I assisted with the USF Alumni Reception. This was a great opportunity to network with fellow students and graduates as well as professors from the department, since I rarely see any of them in person.

Other sections I attended were, Creative Solutions in Technical Services and the FALSC Forum. I am interested in learning more about Florida colleges and universities' move to the Sierra ILS so the forum was interesting. The President's Reception was a lot of fun! It was also another excellent networking opportunity. Myself and a fellow USF student had a long discussion with a USF Alum about the program and requirements as well as what her experience is at a college library.

Although the FLA was not as large and glamorous as the SAA or as focused as the Science Boot Camp or the FHSLA, I found it inspiring and encouraging. One of the main takeaways for me was the idea that even as a student, or an early career professional I could have something to say and do a presentation of my own at a conference like this. I left with several ideas for projects and hope to begin working on them soon! Thank you so much for helping me to attend this conference!

Libraries are Good for Our Country – Gene Coppola

There are four basic elements of public libraries; we provide a safe/secure environment, we welcome everyone, we are neutral and we act as an educational/cultural destination. Over the past few years, I have written how your Palm Harbor Library has mirrored these services, but what drives a library and determines its mission is more than just these four principles.

In light of current difference of opinions about our country and the seemingly lack at times of civil discourse, public libraries are anchors of hope. This is clearly demonstrated in an article by Leonard Kniffel in American Libraries where he reminds us how libraries are good for our country. Here are 10 ways:

1. Libraries sustain democracy.

Libraries provide access to information and multiple points of view so that people can make knowledgeable decisions on public policy throughout their lives. With their collections, programs, and professional expertise, librarians help their patrons identify accurate and authoritative data and use information resources wisely to stay informed. The public library is the only institution in American society whose purpose is to guard against the tyrannies of ignorance and conformity.

2. Libraries break down boundaries.

Libraries of various kinds offer services and programs for people at all literacy levels, readers with little or no English skills, preschoolers, students, homebound senior citizens, prisoners, homeless or impoverished individuals, and persons with physical or learning disabilities. Libraries rid us of fences that obstruct our vision and our ability to communicate and to educate ourselves.

3. Libraries level the playing field.

By making access to information resources and technology available to all, regardless of income, class, or background, a public library levels the playing field and helps close the gap between the rich and the poor. Libraries unite people and make their resources available to everyone in the community, regardless of social status. There are more public libraries than McDonald's restaurants in the United States.

4. Libraries value the individual.

Libraries offer choices between mainstream and alternative viewpoints, between traditional and visionary concepts, and between monocultural and multicultural perspectives. Library doors swing open for independent thinking without prejudice. Library collections and services offer the historical global, cultural, and political perspective that is necessary to foster a spirit of exploration that challenges orthodoxy and conformity.

5. Libraries nourish creativity.

By providing an atmosphere that stimulates curiosity, libraries create opportunities for unstructured learning and serendipitous discovery. As repositories not only of books, but of images and a wide variety of media, libraries offer access to the accumulated record of mankind with assistance from professional staff delivering these resources through the physical library, the web, and outreach services.

6. Libraries open young minds.

Children's and young adult librarians offer story hours, book talks, summer reading activities, career planning, art projects, gaming competitions, and other programs to spark youthful imaginations. Bringing children into a library can transport them from the commonplace to the extraordinary. From story hours for preschoolers to career planning for high schoolers, children's librarians make a difference because they care about the unique developmental needs of every individual who comes to them for help.

7. Libraries build communities.

People gather at the library to find and share information, experience and experiment with the arts and media, and engage in community discussions and games. No narrow definition will work for libraries. There is the community of scholars, the deaf community, the gay community, the gaming community, and countless others, each with its libraries and specialized collections. Libraries validate and unify; they save lives, literally and by preserving the record of those lives.

8. Libraries support families.

Libraries offer an alternate venue for parents and their children to enhance activities traditionally conducted at home by providing homework centers, parenting collections, after-school programs, outreach, one-on-one reading, and early literacy programs. Like the families they serve, libraries everywhere are adapting to meet the economic and social challenges of the 21st century. In libraries, families find professionals dedicated to keeping their services family-friendly by offering a diverse selection of materials to which people of many backgrounds can relate.

9. Libraries build technology skills.

Library services and programs foster critical-thinking skills and information literacy. Nearly 100% of American libraries offer internet access and assistance with problem-solving aptitude, scientific inquiry, cross-disciplinary thinking, media literacy, productivity and leadership skills, civic engagement, global awareness, and health and environmental awareness. Library patrons search for jobs online, polish résumés with word processing software, fill out applications, research new professions, sign up for career workshops, and look for financial assistance. Public libraries serve as technology hubs by offering a wide range of public access computing and internet access services at no charge to users.

10. Libraries offer sanctuary.

By providing an atmosphere conducive to reflection, libraries induce a feeling of serenity and transcendence that opens the mind to new ideas and interpretations. In the library we are answerable to no one. We can be alone with our private thoughts, fantasies, hopes, and dreams, and we are free to nourish what is most precious to us with the silent companionship of

others who share our quest. Libraries are places where computers and databases provide superior access to information and they offer an atmosphere of light and texture that beautiful architecture and design foster.

This is what your library does. This is our mission.

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Questions about SIS? Feel free to contact any one of the SIS Officers listed to the left of this page!



Suncoast Information Specialists Info

Vol. 32 #4 September/October 2017

Hurricane Irma

Check out below for some afterthoughts after Hurricane Irma hit our area. Some great tips from our members!

Special Thanks

Special Thanks to hosts Ericka Dow and Hal Harmon and speakers Alicia Chalmers and Ann Hardy.

Did You Know?

Suncoast Information Specialists is a professional association of librarians and information specialists in the greater Tampa Bay area, dedicated to providing an open forum for the discussion of mutual concerns and the exchange of ideas in the realm of information management and dissemination. For membership forms and directions on how to join, please go to:
<http://www.suninfospec.org/membership>

Upcoming Meeting

When: October TBD

Time: TBD

Where: TBD

Directions: TBD

Program: Kira Smith and Kelly McDonald, TBLC, will speak on their Ask-a-Librarian program and virtual reference.

Cost: Food for students is \$5, members/guests \$10, see meeting page below for info

RSVP: <http://www.suninfospec.org/meeting>

Questions?: Please contact Carrie Cullen at carriecullen@mail.usf.edu

August Meeting Overview

The August SIS meeting was a discussion on "Turning Outward in Sarasota-Manatee: The Harwood Public Innovators Experience." Representatives from Manatee and Sarasota public libraries, as well a representative from The Patterson Foundation, who participated in a 2 ½-day Harwood Institute Public Innovators Lab discussed community conversations to help enact positive changes in their communities.

Meeting minutes can be found here:

<http://www.suninfospec.org/meeting/minutes>

Meeting photos can be found here:

<http://www.suninfospec.org/photos>

Tidbits

- **Congrats** are in order! **Deborah Henry is retiring as the Science Librarian at Nelson Poynter Memorial Library, USFSP.** Congrats!

Events

- Over the past few years, **Palm Harbor Library has introduced innovative hands-on Makerspace initiatives.** The **newest interactive service is a cooking program called "Let Us Cook @ Palm Harbor Library!"**

This instructive series of food programs will be presented monthly at the library by various cooks and chefs using a mobile kitchen on topics ranging from "Holiday Side Dishes", "Vegetarian Meals", "Making Cookies with Santa", "Cooking 101", "Diabetic Diet" and even "Pet Food".

This completely free public program is to inform and educate community members about the joys of food making and eating well. It offers an opportunity to open a whole new world to some and enhance it further for others.

Would you like to know more about this neat program? Please check out the like below:
<http://palmharborlibrary.org/library/news.html>

Hurricane Irma - Afterthoughts

Please enjoy some storm preparation thoughts from our members after Hurricane Irma. Thanks everyone for sharing!

- Have a Little Free Library? It is a good idea to have the ability to remove the library from its post. The post should survive just fine and the Library can survive for use another day!
- Huge thanks to Polk County Library Cooperative's IT staff! They were on hand to get their libraries' public computers and Wi-Fi back up quickly so the community could get access to the Internet.
- Had a difficult time contacting staff during and after Irma? Check out the free app Remind. Remind is used by teachers to send mass texts to students and parents. It is an app administrators can have on their phone and staff can text a special phone number to subscribe. It is a great alternative to emails and individual text messages that waste precious power and bandwidth. <https://www.remind.com/>
- The Florida Library Association has established a Florida Library Disaster Relief Fund to collect donations to assist libraries impacted by Hurricane Irma. Donations can be undesignated, or the donor can name a specific library to receive the donation. The donate link is on the FLA homepage, <http://www.flalib.org/>.
- Let's stay prepared not only during hurricane season, but before and after. Staff training is key, face-to-face if possible. What we learn needs to be practiced and newer staff members need to be indoctrinated when they come on board.

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Suncoast Information Specialists Info

Vol. 32 #6 November/December 2017

SIS Board Elections

Voting has concluded! The induction of the 2018 SIS Board will be during the Holiday Mixer.

Special Thanks

Special Thanks to host Michelle Monteleon and speakers Kira Smith and Kelly McDonald.

Did You Know?

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Upcoming Meeting

When: December 6th, Wednesday

Time: 6:00-9:00pm

Where: Grimaldi's Coal Brick-Oven Pizzeria
218 West Shore Plaza, Tampa, FL 33609

Directions: <https://www.grimaldispizzeria.com/>

Program: Holiday Mixer, a networking and social gathering of Suncoast Information Specialists and friends. This meeting will be a time to gather with other members and enjoy the holiday season. Guests are invited to join us.

Cost: This is a dutch treat event, with each person ordering food and/or drinks from the menu.

RSVP: <http://www.suninfospec.org/meeting>

Questions?: Please contact Carrie Cullen at carriecullen@mail.usf.edu

October Meeting Overview

Kira Smith and Kelly McDonald, TBLC presented their program on their virtual reference desk, Ask a Librarian. A collaborative effort between TBLC and College Center for Library Automation (CCLA) Ask a Librarian started in 2003 and is staffed by 4 TBLC and 4 USF/FSU interns. Customers ask questions via chats, emails, and text messages and the service is available 84hrs a week.

Meeting minutes can be found here:

<http://www.suninfospec.org/meeting/minutes>

Meeting photos can be found here:

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Tidbits

- **The Library of Congress recently digitized the Ulysses S. Grant (1822-1885) collection;** 50,000 items; general and family correspondence, speeches, reports, records, clippings etc., dating from 1819-1974. You can find the collection of the army officer and 18th president here: <https://www.loc.gov/collections/ulysses-s-grant-papers/about-this-collection/>

Events

- The **University of South Florida, Sarasota-Manatee** is excited to announce they will be hosting the [ACRL workshop](#), "Engaging with the ACRL Framework: A Catalyst for Exploring and Expanding Our Teaching Practices" **on November 30th, 2017**.

This one day workshop will provide librarians and educators with the opportunity to engage more deeply with the ACRL Framework and explore ways it may help them to enrich their teaching as well as their local instruction programs and institutions. A continental breakfast, lunch, and snacks are included with registration. This event is open to all librarians in the state, library science students, and USFSM students and faculty.

[To register, please visit our event website.](#)

Job Opportunities

State College of Florida, Manatee-Sarasota Libraries is hiring!

Reference & Instruction Librarian **(2)** Full time - Bradenton Campus
More info and application here: <https://employment.scf.edu/postings/2199>

SIS 2018 Board Elections

SIS Board Elections are in! Congratulations to the following SIS Board Members for the 2017-18/19 year(s):

Vice President/President-Elect (Jan 2018-Dec 2019): Kearin Reid

Secretary (2017-2018): Kim Nordon-Parks

Director (Jan 2018-Dec 2019, 2-year term): Vilma Silva Butym

SIS still needs a Treasurer, description below. If you are looking for an excellent networking opportunity, please join our team!

The Treasurer is a 2-year position and they are responsible for collecting dues, paying bills approved by the President, keeping an account of receipts and expenditures and submits a financial report at meetings.

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