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Transforming Special Collections: A (Lib)Guide to Innovation. Peer-reviewed poster session presented at the American Library Association 2010 Annual Conference.

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“Special Collections as Laboratories,” a recent posting on the Chronicle of Higher Education’s The Wired Campus blog, revived the myth of special collections as dusty and often forgotten repositories.

This poster session illustrates how Special & Digital Collections (SDC) at the University of South Florida Tampa Library transformed its web presence in order to dispel such notions. SDC created a series of collection guides using Springshare’s LibGuides platform to make its web presence more user-friendly, engaging, interactive, and holistic. The guides also add value to the researcher by contextualizing each collection and highlighting connections/partnerships with other Library units, related academic departments, and the Tampa community.

This poster showcases three guides: the Science Fiction and Fantasy Collection; the Farid Karam, M.D. Lebanon Antiquities Collection; and the Oral History Program. The guides provide a platform to reach out to diverse user communities and illustrate ongoing research projects and partnerships that SDC materials routinely inspire. The result is a more robust web presence that reflects the vigorous use patterns and vitality of special collections at USF.

SCIENCE FICTION & FANTASY: A (Lib)Guide to Research Portals

expanded description

images & links

research tips & public events

FARID KARAM, M.D. LEBANESE ANTIQUITIES COLLECTION A (Lib)Guide to Action

glass ewer

bust of man

clay oil lamp

glass bowl

ointment jar

clay ewer

sprinkler flask

kohl stick

unguentarium

ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM: A (Lib)Guide to Community Involvement

static pages

embedded digital content

public events

national press & used collections