A Map Through Time
Virtual Historic Cities

NEW WAYS OF EXPLORING DIGITAL COLLECTIONS

FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY
JAMIE ROGERS
What do these projects have in common?

- They were both built upon existing collections and partnerships
- They were initiated by a drive to increase user access through new modes of discovery
- They both reach new audiences through cross-discipline content, discoverable through a single interface
- They were both built on a common software platform, SobekCM (developed by UF), furthering the technical collaboration between FIU and UF
Partnerships

- City of Coral Gables, City Hall and the Coral Gables Historical Resources Department - since 2005
- Florida International University Digital Collections Center (DCC)
- Florida International University Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Department
- Florida International University Department of Landscape Architecture
- University of Florida Digital Collections (UFDC)
Coral Gables – Virtual Historic City

• Project Background

○ Project plans to incorporate multiple collections from the South Florida Region

○ Advisory Board consisting of museum professionals, archivists, library professionals, GIS experts, architects, city officials, etc.

○ Coral Gables funding of initial project scope

○ Successes, new partnerships, and expanding the project
  • NEH and IMLS grant proposals have been submitted
History of Collaboration

Coral Gables Memory – http://coralgables.fiu.edu/

Coral Gables Memory is a collection of visual and textual materials representing archival and museum artifacts documenting the history, culture, architecture and people of Coral Gables, Florida. Materials for digitization have been provided by Coral Gables’ Historical Resources Department, the City Clerk’s Office and the FIU Libraries.

A focal point of this collection is the digital photo album of images donated to the City of Coral Gables, Florida by Kerdyk Realty. The photographs, which document homes and business structures, were made mainly in the 1940s.

Other materials included in Coral Gables Memory comprise minute books, published works, postcards, and more. These will be of interest to students and teachers, researchers, genealogists, tourists, and the interested citizenry.
The Talking Book

The Talking Book is an online interactive book, which focuses on the people, places, and events that shaped the City of Coral Gables in its early history.

The project has two parts. The first is a narrative telling the story of the City's history. The second is a database of photographs, texts, and ephemera related to the City.
A great benefit of online publishing is the ability for users to make connections with additional information sources.

The majority of the work performed by the Digital Collections Center at FIU is the digitization and dissemination of primary source materials (photographs, rare texts, ephemera, oral histories, etc.)

The talking book provided an opportunity to make these materials available in a way that delivers context for the user, and allowing them to venture on an information discovery path.
### Existing Digital Collections

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Collection</th>
<th>Media</th>
<th>Scope/Description</th>
<th>Time Period</th>
<th># of Items</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Coral Gables Memory</td>
<td>Photographs</td>
<td>Coral Gables Homes</td>
<td>1940s – 1950s</td>
<td>5,000+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Photographs</td>
<td>Photographs</td>
<td>Historical People/Places/Events</td>
<td>1920s –</td>
<td>180+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Photographs</td>
<td>Ephemera</td>
<td>Postcards, Booklets, Advertisements</td>
<td>1920s –</td>
<td>10+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texts</td>
<td>Ephemera</td>
<td>Minute Books and other</td>
<td>1925 – 1952</td>
<td>20+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miami Metropolitan Archive</td>
<td>Texts</td>
<td>Zoning, Development, Advertising, Housing</td>
<td>1930s –</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Architecture
Aerial Views
Historic Landmarks
Local History
Popular Culture
Postcards

M5:—BILTMORE HOTEL, CORAL GABLES, FLA.

The city commissioners of the city of Coral Gables, met pursuant to the provisions of the municipal charter, incorporating said city, at the Administration building, in the city of Coral Gables, Florida, which was temporarily designated as the City Hall. Said meeting was held at 12 o'clock noon, the 1st day of May, A.D. 1925.

All of the members of the City Commission were present.

George E. Merrick
Edward E. Hamers
Eldredge Knight
C. F. Baldwin
F. W. Webster

Mr. George E. Merrick was nominated and unanimously elected as temporary Chairman of the meeting. Mr. Edwin W. Bishop was requested to perform the duties of Clerk.

The Chairman announced that the first business to come before the meeting was the election of a Mayor for the new City of Coral Gables. And thereupon with due formality and in compliance with the provisions of the said City Charter, Dr. Edward E. Hamers was nominated as Mayor of the City of Coral Gables, Florida. Upon motion duly made and unanimously carried, it was moved that the nominations be closed and the Clerk pass the unanimous ballot of the City Commissioners for Dr. Edward E. Hamers as Mayor. This having been duly accomplished, Mr. Merrick resigned the chair to Dr. Edward E. Hamers, who assumed the duties of Mayor.

The Mayor thereupon announced that it was now in order to formally accept the City Charter incorporating the City of Coral Gables. Mr. Bishop, as Clerk, was thereupon directed to read same for the information of the Commissioners. This having been done, said City Charter was duly accepted and adopted as a City Charter for said City of Coral Gables.
## New Resources

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Task</th>
<th>Quantity Completed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Create audio narratives for the Coral Gables Virtual Tour, which include information about the city’s historic landmarks</td>
<td>48 landmark descriptions and associated audio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Add geospatial metadata and standardize temporal metadata of existing collection (Kerdyk residential photographs as well as other digital objects)</td>
<td>5000+ records, 10000+ files</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Digitize content for the collection (photographs and other ephemera) held at the Coral Gables Historical Resources Department as well as textual materials</td>
<td>732 photographs, 1000+ files</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Digitize maps held at the University of Miami</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Digitize aerials from 1920s and on</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Test load items into current beta digital repository system</td>
<td>100 records</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## GIS Data

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Historical Aerial Photographs</td>
<td>1920’s – 2010 at 25 Year Intervals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sanborn Maps</td>
<td>1899 – 1924 Property Parcels, Streets, Building Outlines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Historical Maps</td>
<td>1880-1920 Landmarks and Streets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(with Streets and Landmarks)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vegetation Data</td>
<td>1820’s – Vegetation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Census Historical/Municipal Boundaries</td>
<td>Census Places; Census Tracts from 1970 On</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>and Census Boundaries</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NOAA Historical Hurricane Data</td>
<td>1926 -</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Audience

- urban planners
- entrepreneurs
- environmental analysts
- community
- architects
- historians
- k-16 students
- sociologists
- policy administrators
- educators
- businesses
- south florida
Functionality

- **Temporal tool**
  - sliding time bar

- **Spatial tool**
  - display of search results on Google maps
  - geo-locate all historic archive items

- **Overlay tool**
  - scanned and rectified historical maps can be dragged onto Google Maps interface
  - transparency can be adjusted to see changes take place over time

- **Virtual tour**
  - routing tool connects one or more historic landmarks, which has audio, text and photos imbedded

- **3D models**
  - historic landmarks
Search & Discovery

Start search by entering condition in the box below
Please enter the condition here. Search

Historical Collections List: All Collections

Download Links:
F11671105.pdf
F11671105.pdf

Complete File Information:
Title: Biltmore Re-opening Letter
Author:
Contributor:
CreateDate: 9/31/2012 7:57:52 PM
Description:
Format:
Identifier: undefined
Publication Place: undefined
Publication Year: 1926
Rights: undefined
Subjects: Coral Gables (Fla.)--History,
Miami Biltmore Hotel & Country Club,
Type: Book
3D models
Virtual Tour
Beta Version Demo

http://hexa.fiu.edu/cgm/
A Map Through Time

**Future Directions**

1. Crowd-sourcing tools for populating content
2. Incorporation of quantitative data (e.g. historical census data) within the virtual city
3. Inclusion of a bicycle/pedestrian route planner for visiting historic sites
4. Expansion of the Virtual City to other historical cities in Florida or US
Questions?
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