

FAU Libraries Now and in the Future

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<https://faulibrarydean.wordpress.com/2019/09/14/fau-libraries-now-and-in-the-future/>

The FAU Libraries have made many changes in the past four years and there are more to come. As we prepare for a review and refreshing of our [strategic plan](#) developed in the fall of 2016, we have been reflecting back on what we have accomplished.



To help us keep track of our recent accomplishments, we have produced our first [Annual Report](#) for the 2018-2019 academic year where we showcase some of our spaces, services, partnerships, and people.

A recurring theme in our report is expanding access to tools and resources through strategic partnerships.

Serving students from all disciplines, the [GIS Corner](#) was launched in partnership with the Department of Geosciences to enable any FAU student and faculty member to have access to geographic information systems technology. Students and faculty are able to access the software and receive advice from qualified staff on how best to use the technology, expanding access to a resource that was previously available only to students majoring in Geosciences. The space (pictured below) was recently expanded to include more computers because of its increasing popularity.



Another example of such a strategic partnership is with the [Machine Perception & Cognitive Robotics \(MPCR\)](#) Laboratory in the development of the [Gruber Sandbox](#), coming in the spring of 2010, along with the Portal where virtual reality technology is already available. The work of the MPCR Lab has received recognition around the world, most notably for Astro, the RoboDog, pictured below standing guard over the Donuts with the Dean event at the beginning of the fall 2019 semester. The Portal and the Sandbox represent expanded access to the most advanced technologies for any student, at any level, from any discipline.



The [Spirit of America Fellowship](#) is a partnership between the FAU Libraries, the FAU Department of History, and the Huntington Library in California that increases awareness of and access to the one-of-a-kind [Marvin & Sybil Weiner Spirit of America Collection](#). Last year, three graduate students from across the country spent a month conducting research on materials from the Marvin and Sybil Weiner Spirit of America Collection, which has 13,000 printed items from 1501 to the Revolutionary era.



The Annual Report highlights events, exhibits, new spaces, and improved services, such as a significant upgrade in disability services. To better serve students and community members requiring accessible services, several spaces in the Wimberly Library were renovated and services were improved. The physical space enhancements include increased accessibility to restrooms on the first and second floors, and an ADA study room. In addition, the ADA Services webpage was redesigned to make it easier to discover all the resources available. Staff also underwent training to ensure they were offering high-quality services to all students and faculty, regardless of their background and needs.

I encourage you to check out the [Annual Report](#) to see some of what we have been up to and to have a framework for understanding the ongoing evolution of the FAU Libraries.

