



Adios!

Posted on [June 3, 2015](#) by [Carol Hixson](#)

<https://poynterdean.wordpress.com/2015/06/03/adios/>

This is my final message as Dean of the Nelson Poynter Memorial Library. I came to USF St. Petersburg in August 2009 to take over leadership of the Poynter Library. In the past five and a half years, we have transformed the physical and virtual space of the Library and have redefined the services we provide to the students and faculty of USFSP. We did this strategically, working closely with the students and with colleagues across the University to be sure we were anticipating and meeting their changing needs. We did this collegially, involving all library faculty and staff, valuing every individual's contributions, celebrating each individual and group success. I am proud of every member of the Poynter Library family and what we have accomplished together.

In the last five and a half years, we have:

- built a welcoming, attractive, and highly functional space centered around students on the first floor of the Library and we have been gradually expanding the redesign to the second and third floors.



- developed a new service model that takes advantage of the skill and expertise of our front-line employees to help library users with their basic service needs and that calls in a reference librarian when there is the need for more in-depth research assistance.



built the USFSP Digital Archive where we showcase the work of our faculty and our students and also store the institutional memory of USFSP. *(note from March 2021: the new Dean of Library at USFSP cancelled this service and transferred selected content to another platform. Visit the new repository at: <https://digital.stpetersburg.usf.edu/>)*

- developed traditions for students like the Annual Halloween Costume Contest, Annual Reception for New Graduate Students, the visits twice a semester from [Therapy Dogs International](#), the Student Research Colloquium, and much more.



- engaged with the broader community through events and lectures, like the recent [Living Books event in November 2014](#).

- expanded access to technology and online resources through the purchase of more laptops, the installation of open-use computers on every floor, the acquisition of collaboration workstations on the first and second floors, and the upgrade of our group study rooms.



- developed online modules for many basic library and information literacy needs so that students can learn how to carry out research, cite an article, avoid plagiarism, and much more when it's convenient for them 24/7 and at their own pace.
- developed a robust professional development environment for faculty teaching online courses through the [Online Learning and Instructional Technology Services](#) department. And much more.

I now turn the reins over to Interim Dean of Library Deborah Henry.

Deb has been a member of the Poynter Library faculty since 1988 and is well known and highly regarded across the campus and the state. She knows the ins and outs of the Poynter Library and USFSP and has been actively involved in planning for and making many of the recent changes happen. She is a thought leader who has always gone the extra mile in providing outstanding library service. For those of you who already know her, you will be happy to work with her in this new role. For those who have not yet had the pleasure of meeting Interim Dean Henry, you will be delighted to get to know her and work with her.

Adios, muchachos y muchachas! It has been a blast. My new position is that of Dean of University Libraries at Florida Atlantic University, starting in August. Anyone wanting to reach me there, can send an email with my last name @fau.edu (*note from March 2021 – this email address is no longer valid*)

Best wishes,
Carol Hixson

