



Karst topography in Juniper Springs, FL (left); USF graduate student, Lee Florea, in Florida spring/cave system (top right); and Carlsbad Caverns in New Mexico (bottom left).

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Library & Information Science
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Karst Information Portal

The USF Libraries actively seek opportunities to work more closely with USF's scientific community. Several years ago, the Tampa Library's Florida Studies Center awarded a research stipend to Lee Florea, a PhD candidate in Geology. Florea's stipend came up in an informal planning meeting, and inspired Librarian Todd Chavez to further explore Florea's subject of research—karst.

Karst is a topography that results from water, often infused with carbon dioxide, dissolving carbonate bedrock. Karst is especially prevalent in the limestone of Florida, creating formations such as sinkholes, springs, and vertical shafts. Karst can be found all over the globe, and understanding it is instrumental for anyone interested in the world's geology and water sources.

An inspection of karst resources reveals a fragmented set of information, presenting serious challenges to any researcher. Existing geoscience portals do not specifically focus on karst. Chavez and others in the Library saw an opportunity to consolidate resources for scholars on the Internet, while opening possibilities for new untapped sources of information.

In January 2006, a delegation from USF attended a workshop at the University of New Mexico to explore the idea of a karst information portal. The workshop's twenty-nine attendees came from all over the world and from various disciplines, including China, Romania, Australia, the US Geological Survey, park services representatives, scientists, and cave enthusiasts. USF's delegation was the largest, and discovered a pressing need for a karst research destination.

A group of USF faculty and graduate students have collaborated with the library to create an information portal for researchers interested in karst. In association with USF's Patel Center for Global Solutions, the National Cave and Karst Research Institute (NCKRI), the USF Karst Research Group, and the University of New Mexico (UNM) Libraries, USF Libraries created the Karst Information Portal (KIP) Initiative. Geoscience portals such as GEON and CHRONOS could be invaluable partners as the project progresses.

The portal presently contains numerous links to journals, publications, organizations, listserves, websites, and other resources for karst researchers. The portal will not be fully established until the new USF Libraries' website goes live this fall (see story page 5). In the meantime, digital collections will be added to the portal to augment KIP's existing resources. The USF Tampa Library leads the initiative with the National Cave and Karst Research Institute. (Continued on page 8)

WHAT'S UP @ YOUR LIBRARY?
See page 6 for the latest.

TAMPA LIBRARY OPEN HOUSE

Keeping you One Step Ahead of the Game!

Wednesday, Sept. 6, 2006, 11am-2pm

Tampa Library Information Commons

Join us for a 'pep rally!' Learn more about new services offered by the Tampa Library.

THIRD THURSDAY

Thursday, Sept. 21, 2006, 3-5pm

Tampa Library Starbucks Café

Enjoy a coffee-house atmosphere with musical, dramatic, and spoken word performances by USF faculty, staff and students.

THE 1ST 50 YEARS: A ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

with Liana Fernandez Fox, Sam M. Gibbons, Mark I. Greenberg, and Les Miller

Wednesday, Sept. 27, 2006,

6pm Reception, 7pm Program

Lifsey House, Tampa Campus

Welcome by USF President Judy Genshaft with oral history excerpts edited and presented by Assistant Librarian Andrew Huse. Moderated by William H. Scheuerle, Director, USF Humanities Institute.

University of South Florida: The First Fifty Years
Book Sales and Signing to Follow

RSVP by Sept. 20 to (813) 974-1198.

THIRD THURSDAY POETRY JAM

Thursday, Oct. 19, 2006, 7-9pm

Tampa Library Starbucks Café

Listen to amazing poetry by USF students, faculty and staff at this evening poetry event. If you are interested in participating in the Poetry Jam, please contact Diana Matthews at (813) 974-6959 by Oct. 5, 2006.

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USF Libraries Obtains Medical History Maker's Collection

In collaboration with the USF Chemistry Department, the USF Special Collections Department has obtained a new collection. Edna Yadven Kamlet Rogers, the widow of Jonas Kamlet, donated the Kamlet Chemical Laboratories Collection as well as a \$25,000 gift to establish the Jonas Kamlet Memorial Fund. The Jonas Kamlet Memorial Fund will support the preservation of this valuable scientific information. In addition to preserving Kamlet's scientific achievements, the Kamlet Memorial Fund will reveal the research work of an exceptional chemist and inventor. The Kamlet Chemical Laboratories Collection was approximately 400 linear feet and was delivered in nearly three dozen filing cabinets. Best practices will be used in preserving and processing. Documents will be placed in acid free folders and boxes. A finding guide and webpage will be created to organize these historical documents.

Dr. Kamlet was greatly admired for his scholarly achievements before he received his Ph.D. in 1944 from New York University. USF Distinguished Chemistry Professor, Dr. Dean Martin sees the Kamlet Collection as a "guide to the future" and acknowledges the value of understanding how "his processes led to chemistry inventions."

Chemistry students can use Kamlet's foundational works to aid scientific discoveries in the future. Dr. Kamlet left a strong body of research that is contained in a large volume of papers, journals, and other published and unpublished work. The Kamlet Collection documents basic chemistry advancement from 1940 to the mid 1960s and will serve as a valuable resource for generations of future chemistry students. As a consulting chemist, Kamlet produced over one hundred patents, including the blood glucose meter, which is today's standard approach for diabetes testing. Earlier, Kamlet discovered a tablet to measure glucose levels in diabetes patients. Kamlet collaborated with Miles Laboratories of Elkhart, Indiana, where he developed a process for recovering paper-mill wastes. He obtained a patent for the production of d-tartaric acid, a pregnancy test strip, and other inventions.

Karst continued from page 1

The creation of such an ambitious resource would not be possible without support from USF's active karst research community. Faculty members Len Vacher (Geology), Bob Brinkman (Geography) and Librarian Todd Chavez worked with Mark Amen and Rebecca Harris at the Patel Center to bring UMN and NCKI aboard. The Patel Center also assists with grants, fiscal, and personnel support. Geographic Information Systems Librarian Pete Reehling and Library and Information Science faculty Anna Perrault have also lent their expertise to the project. Doctoral students Lee Florea (Geology) and Spencer Fleury (Geography) provided further assistance.

Innovative projects such as this come with inherent challenges. For Chavez, the primary challenge is "to be relevant to a wide audience," and to provide "breadth without sacrificing depth."

Chavez envisions a broad audience for the portal including geologists, geographers, land managers, land planners, insurance companies, home buyers, biologists, and cave enthusiasts. A biologist may use the portal to collate data on rare cave life forms, while a home buyer may want to know how probable a sinkhole would be on his or her prospective property.

Another challenge for the project will be adjusting the resources to usage. Karst-related research has grown by leaps and bounds since 1970, and such a portal would help scholars keep track of all the activity in their field. Besides traditional research materials, the portal will specialize in "informal information" from conferences, current findings of cave enthusiasts, and oral histories with prominent people in the field. By gathering data from existing sources such as unpublished materials, various agencies, and image collections, library personnel and KIP partners could create new databases with far-reaching implications for the scientific community.

BY: ANDY HUSE, SPECIAL COLLECTIONS LIBRARIAN, TAMPA LIBRARY