

An Anniversary and a Grant:

Jump start for digitizing the Zaragoza Collection at Pensacola State College

The 2018 to 2019 academic year was the 70th anniversary of Pensacola State College (PSC) opening. In honor of that anniversary, the library set out to showcase college history. A main goal was to allow alumni and the public to be able to access PSC's history materials without having to physically travel to campus.



Photo: Cover illustration for The Tide yearbook, 1970.
<https://psc.digital.flvc.org/islandora/object/psc%3A4186>

Before digitization, materials related to this history of PSC had been stored centrally in the Lois Zaragoza-Goode Room at the PSC Library. This collection, which included campus and student publications, memorabilia, photographs, and historical materials, were available for on-site public access, but were only loosely organized and had never been comprehensively inventoried. A graduate student from the University of Alabama's Library Science program completed a 100 hour internship inventorying and describing the materials in the Zaragoza Collection.

After inventorying the archives, the college identified two collections with potentially high interest for researchers: The historical yearbooks were selected from ongoing interest to alumni. The second identified collection were scrapbooks from Booker T. Washington Junior College, the first Florida public college for African Americans, which operated during segregation and merged into PSC

in 1965 to racially integrate both predecessor campuses.

With a grant from the Panhandle Library Access Network, the college was able to fund digitization of library selected materials, addition of metadata for each digital item, and rehousing the physical objects in archival storage boxes and sleeves. Two student workers worked through the collections in summer of 2019 digitizing material and completing a metadata worksheet for each digitized item.



Photo: "Booker T. Washington Junior College Graduating Class, 1950-1951" available for viewing at <https://psc.digital.flvc.org/islandora/object/psc%3A5872>

One striking aspect of the ramp up to the 70th anniversary celebration and unveiling is how much could be accomplished in a short time. From beginning the project, to inventorying the archives, to launch of the site at <http://psc.digital.flvc.org/> took approximately 4 months total. The inventory phase ran through April and May of 2019, and digitization ran from May to August 2019. In that time, PSC completed a full inventory of materials in the Zaragoza Collection physical archive, digitized a twenty-year run of yearbooks totaling more than 5,000 pages, and digitized the Booker T. Washington Junior College Scrapbooks.

Since launching in Fall 2019, the library has added several student newspapers and continues to expand digital collections. As a result of launching and maintaining the Digital Archives, the library has been able to quickly provide historical photos to the marketing department, and staff and students have given positive feedback. The college continues to digitize and add material to the archive, with a focus on making available student publications and materials related to campus history.



Photo: Cover illustration of "Compendium: A Collection of Good Works by the Pensacola Junior College Foundation." <https://psc.digital.flvc.org/islandora/object/psc%3>

The Pensacola State College Digital Archives can be viewed online at <http://psc.digital.flvc.org/>.

Materials related to Booker T. Washington Junior College can be viewed online at <http://psc.digital.flvc.org/islandora/object/psc:bookertwashingtonjc>

College yearbooks can be viewed online at <http://psc.digital.flvc.org/islandora/object/psc%3Ayearbooks>