A Map Through Time
Virtual Historic Cities

NEW WAYS OF EXPLORING DIGITAL COLLECTIONS

FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY
JAMIE ROGERS

Coral Gables – Virtual Historic City & Unearthing St. Augustine's Colonial Heritage

- 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

Coral Gables – Virtual Historic City

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)

FIU | GIS Center
FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

FIU Architecture + The Arts

Florida International University Libraries
Digital Collections Center

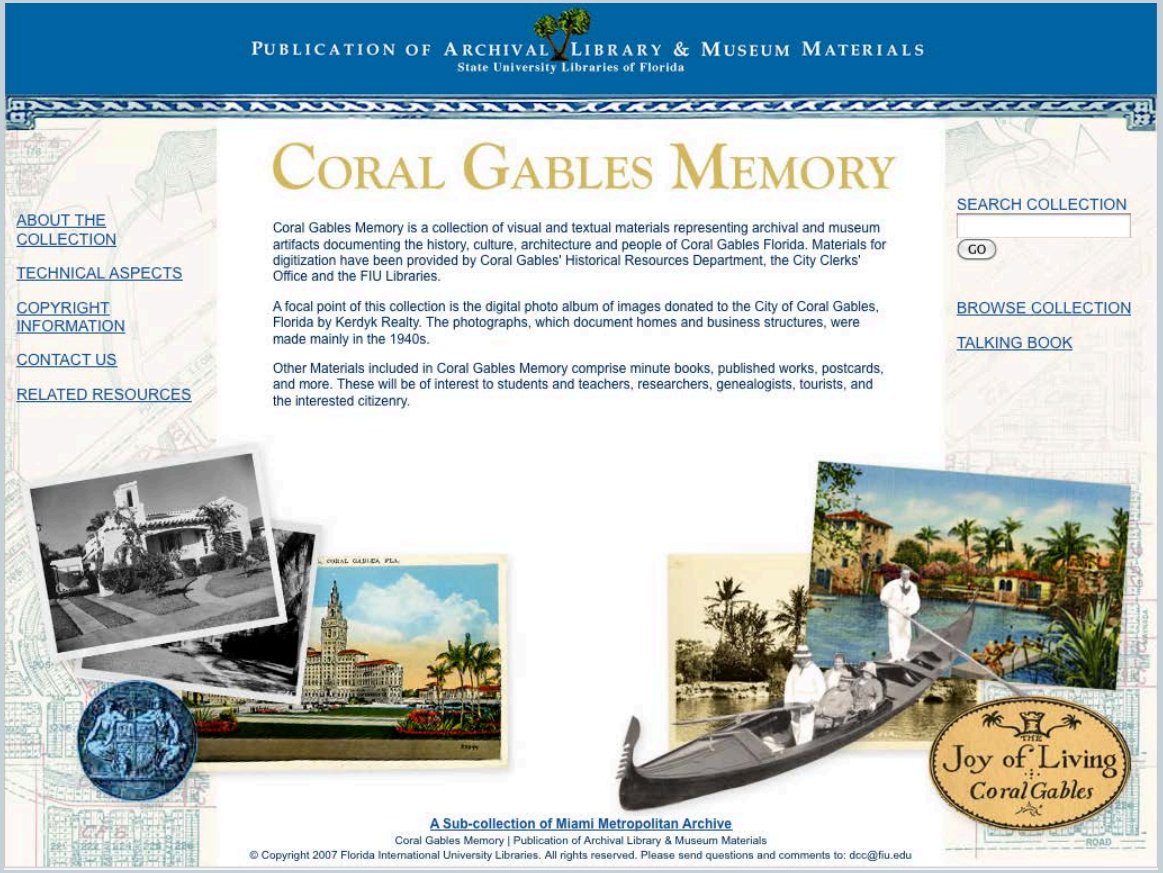
UF | University of Florida
The Foundation for The Gator Nation

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

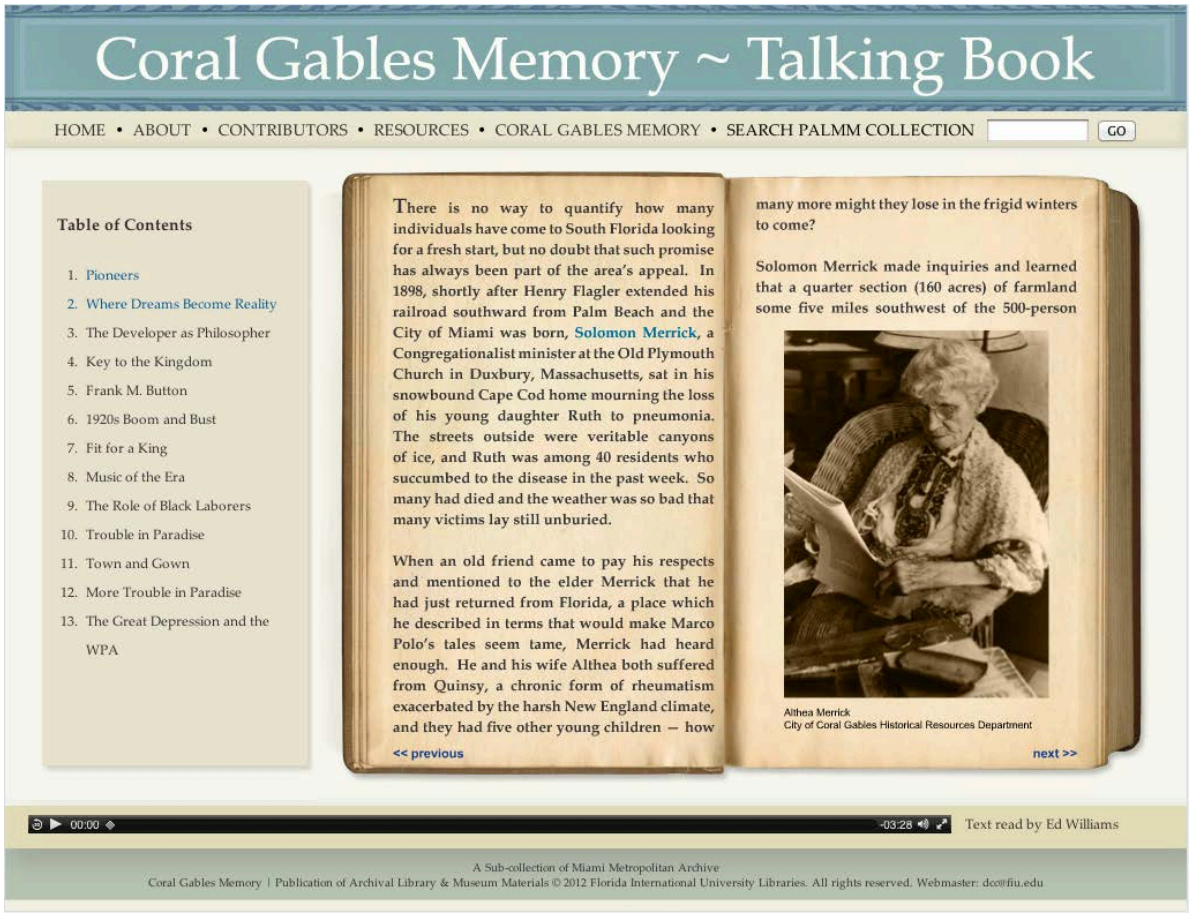
Coral Gables Memory – http://coralgables.fiu.edu/



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.

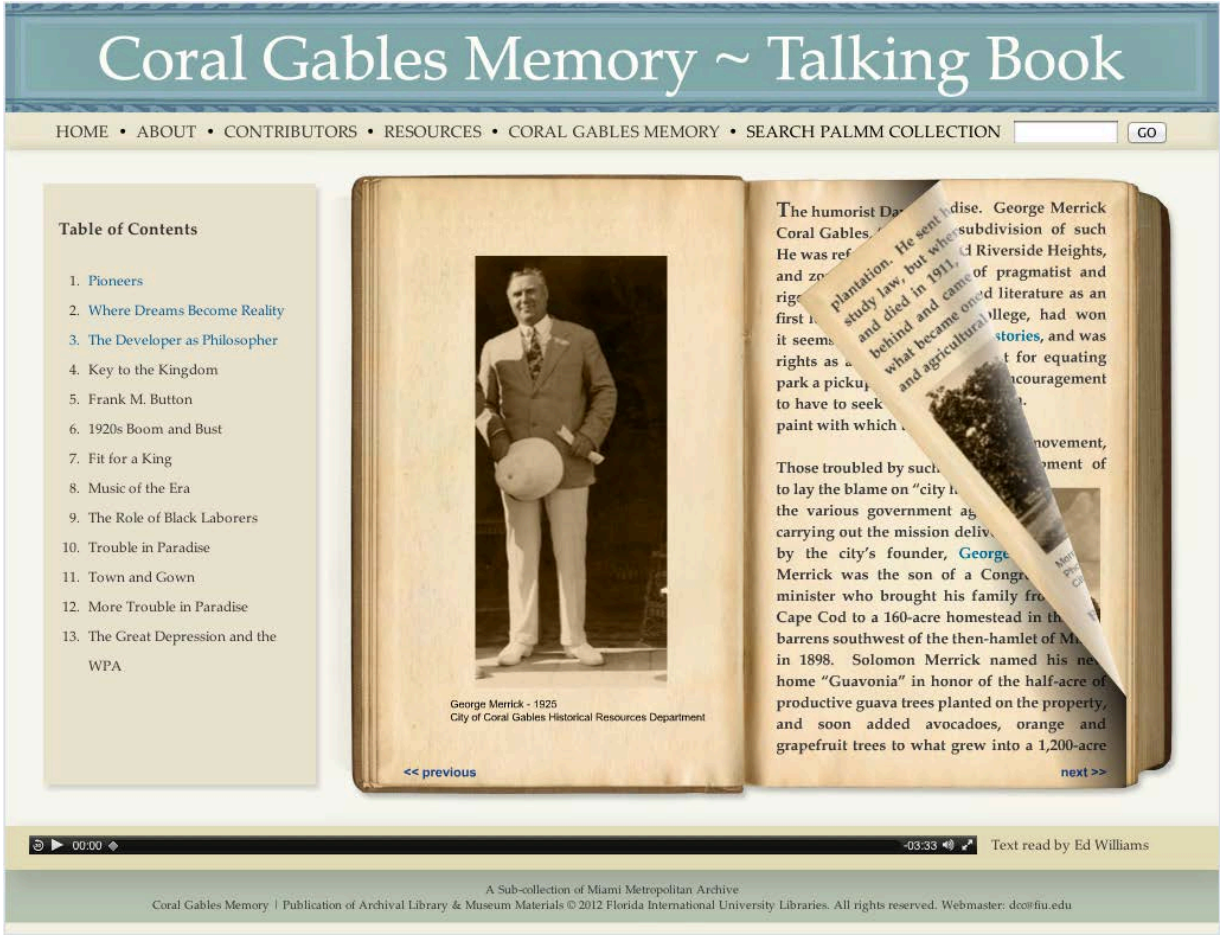
The project has two parts. The first is a narrative telling the story of the City's history. The second is a database of photographs, texts, and ephemera related to the City.



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.



The Talking Book provided context to the existing digital collection.

Existing Digital Collections

Collection	Media	Scope/Description	Time Period	# of Items
Coral Gables Memory	Photographs	Coral Gables Homes	1940s – 1950s	5,000+
	Photographs	Historical People/Places/Events	1920s –	180+
	Ephemera	Postcards, Booklets, Advertisements	1920s –	10+
	Texts	Minute Books and other	1925 – 1952	20+
Miami Metropolitan Archive	Texts	Zoning, Development, Advertising, Housing	1930s –	6

Architecture

Aerial Views

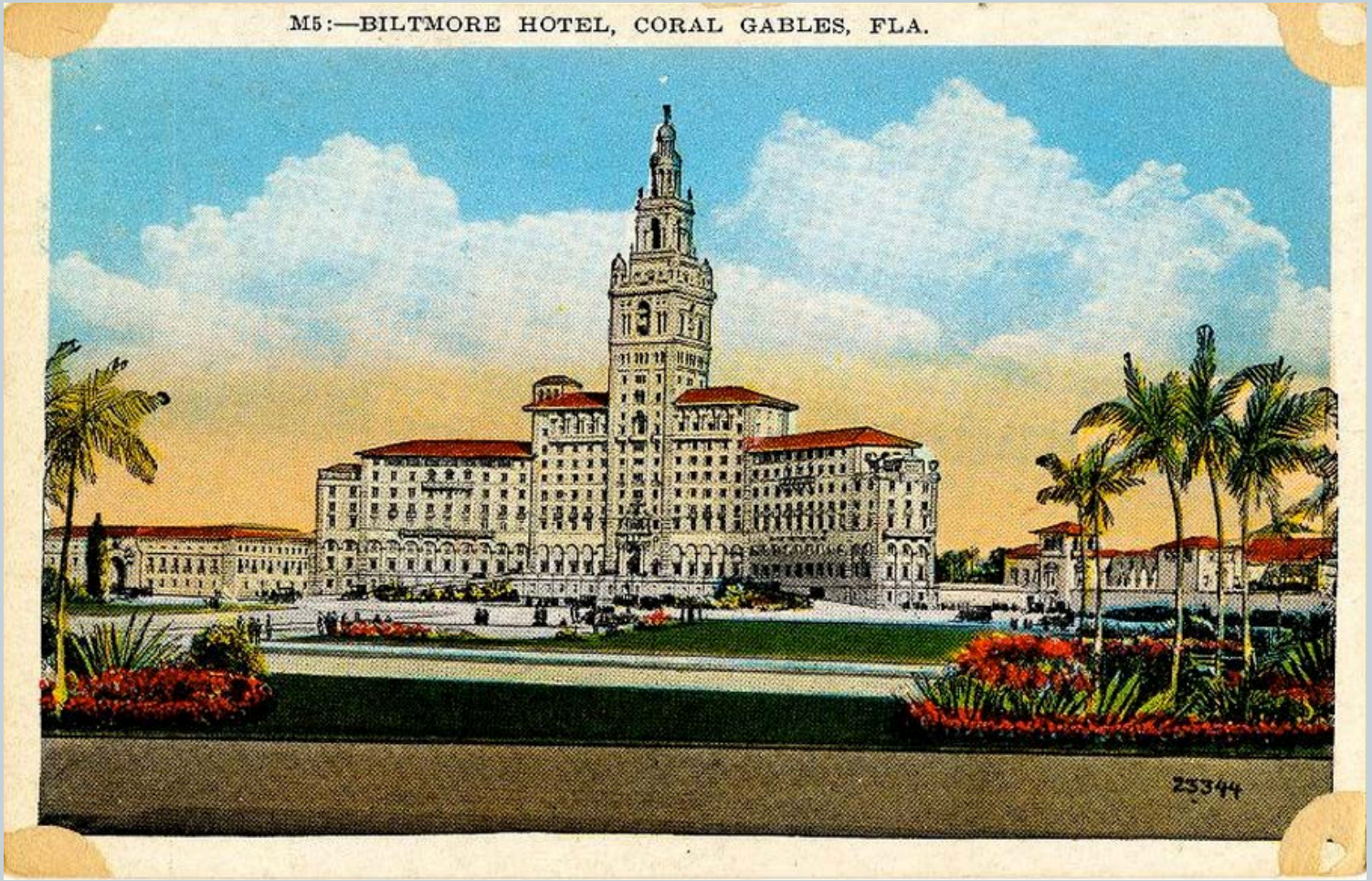
Historic Landmarks

Local History

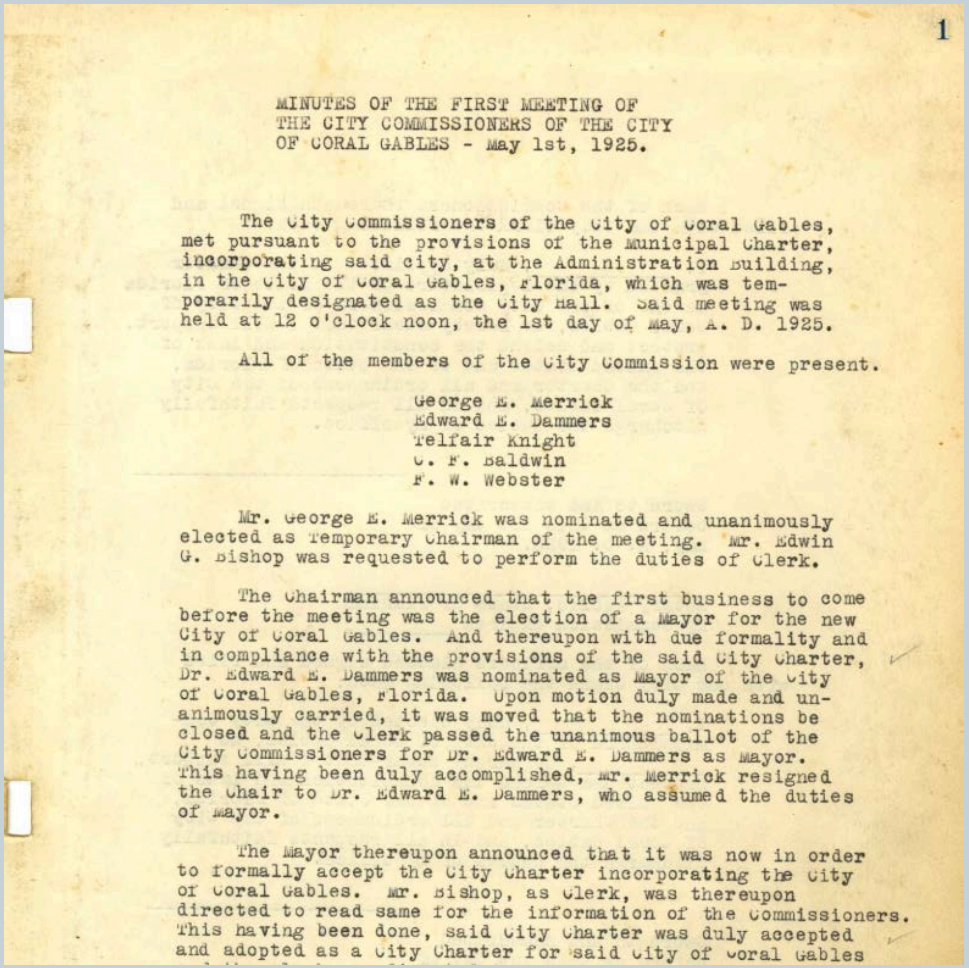
Popular Culture

Fashion

Postcards



Legislative Minute Books



1

MINUTES OF THE FIRST MEETING OF
THE CITY COMMISSIONERS OF THE CITY
OF CORAL GABLES - May 1st, 1925.

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. Dammers
Telfair Knight
C. F. Baldwin
F. W. Webster

Mr. George E. Merrick was nominated and unanimously elected as Temporary Chairman of the meeting. Mr. Edwin G. 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. Dammers 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 passed the unanimous ballot of the City Commissioners for Dr. Edward E. Dammers as Mayor. This having been duly accomplished, Mr. Merrick resigned the Chair to Dr. Edward E. Dammers, 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

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

GIS Data

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

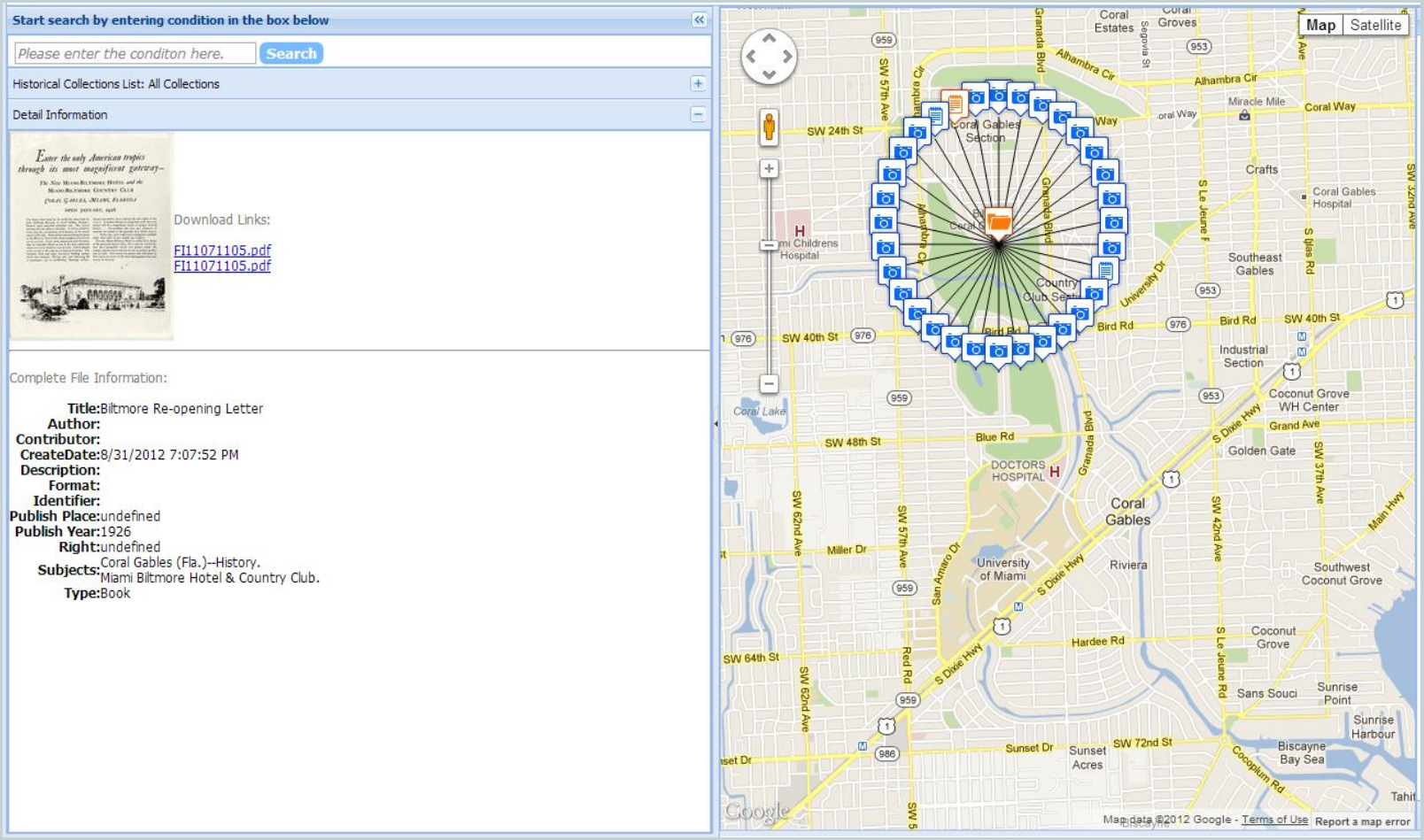
Audience

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

Functionality

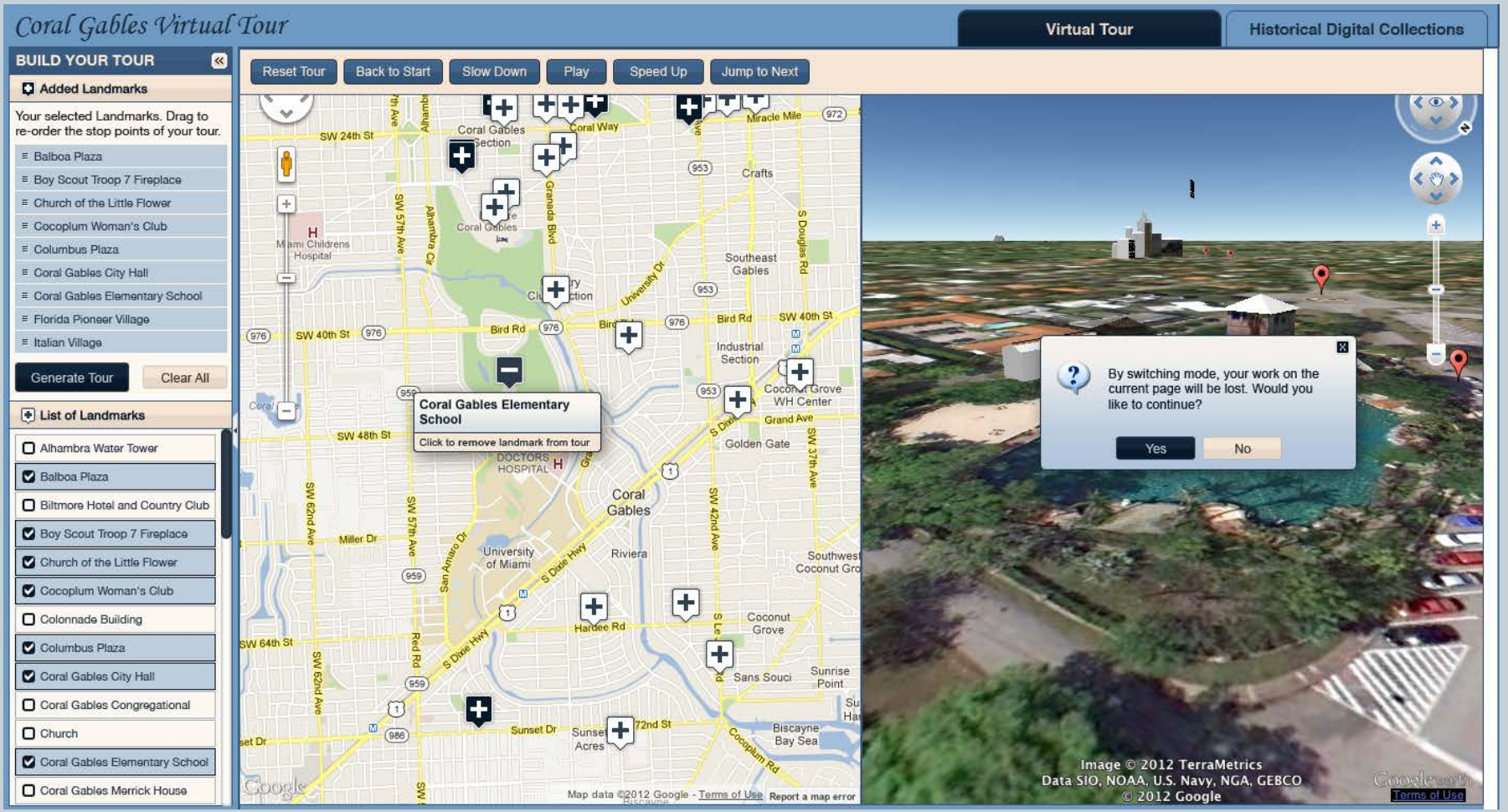
- Temporal tool
  - sliding time bar
- Spatial tool
  - display of search results on Google maps
  - geo-locate all historic archive items
- Overlay tool
  - scanned and rectified historical maps can be dragged onto Google Maps interface
  - transparency can be adjusted to see changes take place over time
- Virtual tour
  - routing tool connects one or more historic landmarks, which has audio, text and photos imbedded
- 3D models
  - historic landmarks

Search & Discovery



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?

Author Contact Info

Jamie Rogers
Assistant Director of Digital Collections
rogersj@fiu.edu

Jennifer Fu
Head of GIS and DCC
fujen@fiu.edu

Boyuan (Keven) Guan
Lead GIS Programmer
bguan@fiu.edu