Sparking Joy in the University of North Florida Rare Books Collection

A Case Study in Reappraisal and Deaccessioning
Bins, Boxes and Backlog
Books, books, and more books
UNF Land Acknowledgement
How did we get ourselves into this?
1972 Curriculum

- Major courses of study
- Contextual studies (minor)
- “Venture” studies
Venture Studies Program

- Non-major courses
- Options from all 3 colleges
- Inspired by da Vinci
Developing a Rare Book Collection in the Library
• Older Imprints
• Older Imprints

• Limited editions valued over $300/volume
• Older Imprints
• Limited editions valued over $300/volume
• Signed volumes
• Older Imprints
• Limited editions valued over $300/volume
• Signed volumes
• Selected private press books
• Older Imprints
• Limited editions valued over $300/volume
• Signed volumes
• Selected private press books
• Local northeast Florida content, UNF faculty monographs, UNF student theses and dissertations
Interim

• No room to grow
• Not supporting research
• Cost of maintenance
Rare Books Advisory Committee

Chair:
• Head of Special Collections and University Archives

Members:
• Director of Public Services
• Head of Acquisitions
• Head of Discovery Enhancement
• Resource Description Librarian
• Library Services Specialist/Cataloging
Not-so-Rare Books
Categories to Reappraise

Faculty Publications:

- Topics not related to UNF, Jacksonville, or Florida
- Publications by faculty from other universities, not about UNF, Jacksonville, or Florida
- Theses/dissertations by non-UNF students
- University Archives items
Categories to Reappraise

Local Author Non-fiction:

• Self-published personal memoirs
• Autobiographies
• Books by local authors
• Self-published books about Florida
• Donated nonfiction signed by author
Categories to Reappraise

Poetry & Fiction:

• Autographed/inscribed books, not about Jacksonville

• Self-published books by local authors
Categories to Reappraise

Older, historic books:

• Books published in the 18\textsuperscript{th}, 19\textsuperscript{th}, or early 20\textsuperscript{th} Centuries that may not be rare and are not about Florida
Sparking Joy
Reappraisal of Faculty Publications

- Transfer to general/circulating collection
- Deaccession duplicates
Reappraisal of Local Author Non-fiction

• Focused on NE Florida/SE Georgia region.

• Books with significant Jacksonville context and content.

• Books supporting a Special Collection at UNF.
Reappraisal of Local Author Non-fiction
Reappraisal of Poetry & Fiction

Original collection criteria for the Northeast Florida Literary Heritage Collection included:

• The author was from Jacksonville, -or-

• The author lives in Jacksonville, -or-

• The book was about Jacksonville.
Reappraisal of Poetry & Fiction

Revised collection criteria for the Northeast Florida Literary Heritage Collection included:

• Not self-published
• Reviewed books are preferred
• Takes place in NE Florida
• Supports a UNF Special Collection
• Supports UNF English Department curriculum - regarding local subject matter
Reappraising older books
Disposition
Retrospection

“... choosing what we want to keep ...”
Questions?

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