

# Rebecca Fitzsimmons

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## Education

2011 **MLIS:** Library and Information Science, University of South Florida  
2004 **MFA:** Art Photography, University of Illinois  
2000 **BFA:** Art Photography, Syracuse University (magna cum laude)

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## Related Professional Experience

- 11/12 – present **Collection Coordinator:** Special Collections, George A. Smathers Libraries, Gainesville, FL:  
I work with the Panama Canal Museum Collection to accession, organize, describe, digitize, promote, and expand the collection. Responsibilities include updating inventory database records using a number of metadata schema in a system built on SobekCM digital library software; coordinating and offering educational outreach activities; communicating with faculty and staff about the content of the collections, educational initiatives, collection development, and reference service; and developing workflows for processing. I also digitize materials that require a fast turnaround time and have worked in the Digital Library Center using a variety of scanners, camera equipment, and software for image capture and processing.
- I also served as the temporary Exhibits Coordinator from March through August 2013. During that time I worked with curators and oversaw exhibit planning related to the collection. In August 2014 there was a weekend-long Centennial Celebration event on campus for which I curated or co-curated several exhibitions in addition to planning and participating in a number of large-scale community outreach activities.
- 4/12 – 11/12 **Archivist I (Volunteer):** Division of Plant Services, Gainesville, FL:  
I worked with the archival holdings in order to arrange, describe, and create finding aids and other resources for the collection. These discovery tools will be utilized to provide access to institutional documents related to invasive species eradication programs. This work was a special project and completed on a part-time, volunteer basis.
- 9/11 – 12/14 **Designer, Web and Print:** Taste the World Specialty Foods, Oswego, NY:  
I completed freelance projects including the design of a website, print promotional materials, blog site, and social media outreach strategy. I was responsible for all of the product and store photography, graphics creation, research, and most of the written content on the website, blog, and Twitter accounts. The website can be viewed at [www.TasteTheWorldOnline.com](http://www.TasteTheWorldOnline.com). I also had a number of additional clients for whom I completed web, print, and logo design projects.
- 9/10 – 4/12 **Volunteer:** Matheson Museum and Library, Gainesville, FL:  
I worked in the library with archival collections organizing, describing, and digitizing a collection of historic stereo view cards; this work was the basis for the digital library project built using Omeka software that can be found at [www.flstereoview.omeka.net](http://www.flstereoview.omeka.net).

6/8 – 1/10

**Coordinator for Adult & Docent Programs: Samuel P. Harn Museum of Art, Gainesville, FL:**

I arranged and oversaw public programs including lectures, films, symposia, and gallery talks. In this position I also taught a diverse student group each semester that designed interactive gallery activities. I advised them on museum and educational practices and works in the collection and provided assistance with locating books and other resources on art. I also managed all aspects of the 67-member docent program including training, research, and appreciation. This position required extensive public speaking, reference work, and teaching.

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## Selected Lectures and Publications

- Forthcoming Association of Research Libraries Spec Kit: Community-based Collections
- 2/15 Paper Title: *Collective Visions of Triumph and Tourism: Portrayals of Panama and the Panama Canal in Stereographs*, which was part of the session *Visions, Versions, and Voices: Collective and Divergent Histories in the Panama Canal Museum Collection*, Florida Conference of Historians, Florida Southern College, Lakeland, FL
- 11/14 *Beyond the Archive: Engaging in Creative Production and Interpretation for Education and Outreach*, Art Libraries Society of North America Southeast Chapter Conference, Birmingham, AL <http://ufdc.ufl.edu/IR00004856/00001>
- 11/13 *Community Building Around Digital Collections: The Panama Canal Museum Collection at the University of Florida*, Art Libraries Society of North America Southeast Chapter Conference, New Orleans, LA <http://ufdc.ufl.edu/IR00004855/00001>
- 4/13 *Basic Research for Art History Students*, Baltimore City Community College, History of Art I (webinar series), [http://prezi.com/stof\\_xuv3zow/basic-research-for-art-history-students/](http://prezi.com/stof_xuv3zow/basic-research-for-art-history-students/)
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## Selected Awards and Honors

- 4/14 **Public Humanities Program Grant**, UF Center for the Humanities in the Public Sphere: *Addressing Issues of Race, Class, and Gender Through Theatrical Literature Production and Community Discourse* <http://ufdc.ufl.edu/IR00004963/00001>
- 2/13 **Strategic Opportunities Grant**, George A. Smathers Libraries: Panama Canal Museum Collection: Digitization, Metadata Capture, Outreach, and Educational Tool Creation for a Set of Panama and Canal-Focused Stereographs <http://ufdc.ufl.edu/IR00003179/00001>
- 6/07 **Ringling Fellowship**, Ringling Museum of Art, Sarasota FL: Worked in the Education Department to coordinate teacher outreach and develop lesson plans.
- 5/04 **Creative Arts Fellowship**, University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana, IL
- 8/01 **Brodie Fellowship**, University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana, IL