

# FLORIDA LIBRARIES

THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE FLORIDA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Volume 65, No. 1  
Spring 2022

Empowering  
Students  
Through  
Library  
Technology

Reset & Reconnect  
2022 FLA Annual  
Conference

2022 FLA Award  
& Scholarship  
Winners



2021-2022  
Board of Directors

President  
Phyllis Gorshe  
Dunedin Public Library

Vice President/President-Elect  
Shane Roopnarine  
University of Central Florida

Secretary  
Marina Morgan  
Florida Southern College

Treasurer  
Matthew David  
Tampa-Hillsborough County Public Library

Region 1 Director  
Ray Baker  
Miami-Dade Public Library System

Region 2 Director  
Sonya Chapa  
Okeechobee County Public Library

Region 3 Director  
Natalie Houston  
Orange County Public Library

Region 4 Director  
Alyssa Koclanes  
Eckerd College

Region 5 Director  
Michael Sullivan  
Jacksonville Public Library

Region 6 Director  
Keila Zayas-Ruiz  
Florida State University

Past President  
Laura Spears, Ph.D.  
University of Florida

State Librarian  
Amy Johnson  
Division of Library & Information Services

ALA Councilor  
Heather Sostrom  
St. Johns County Public Library System,  
SJC-BOCC

Advocacy & Legislative Committee Chair  
Eric Head  
Citrus County Public Library

DEIA Committee Chair  
Cheryl Wolfe  
Tampa-Hillsborough County Public Library

Rep. from Florida State University  
Leila Gibradze  
FSU Goldstein Library

Rep. from University of South Florida  
Vanessa Reyes, Ph.D.  
School of Information



## Mission Statement:

The Florida Library Association is a statewide organization that promotes excellence in Florida libraries by advocating strongly for libraries and providing high quality professional and leadership development for a diverse community of library staff, volunteers, and supporters.

## Vision:

The Florida Library Association champions strong, indispensable, user-focused Florida libraries that exceed the expectations of the communities and constituents they serve.

Jennifer Pratt, Interim Executive Director

Karen Layton, Communications & Events Manager/ Florida Libraries Designer

Nicole Smith, Social Media Manager

Jeanice Caskey, Meeting Planner

---

*Florida Libraries* is published two times/year (Spring, Fall) and is a benefit of FLA membership. FLA began publication in 1927, which has evolved into the present Florida Libraries .

Florida Libraries Copy should be submitted by email to [journal@flalib.org](mailto:journal@flalib.org). You are encouraged to include press-ready digital photos (300 p.p.i.) and graphics with your articles, which will be included on a space-

# Contents

**4**

**From the Editor**  
By Karen Urbec

**5**

**From the President**  
By Phyllis Gorshe

**6**

**From the Executive Director**  
By Jennifer Pratt

**7**

**Membership Matters**

**10**

**All things Conference**

**13**

**2022 FLA Award Winners**

**16**

**2022 FLA Scholarship Winners**

**17**

**Empowering Students through Library Technology**

# From the Editor



Dear Friends,

Welcome to the spring 2022 edition of *Florida Libraries*, where we focus on the upcoming annual conference and our chance to meet together as professionals and as friends. The support that libraries provide to our communities is vitally important, and in order to continue our efforts we must also take time to support each other and also to care for ourselves. I hope that the conference presentations, gatherings, and time away from your usual schedules will feed your minds and hearts, so you can return to your libraries and your library work with a renewed sense of purpose.

My work as editor of the journal has been a role that I have greatly enjoyed and so it is with mixed feelings that I announce that I am stepping down as editor of *Florida Libraries*. I will always be thankful for the confidence that the board placed in me when they selected me for this position and I have done my best to ensure that trust was not misplaced. Along the way, it has been my good fortune to work with many talented writers, editors, librarians, and leaders to produce this publication. I especially must name the editorial board—Claudia Holland, Mary Daniels, Keila Zayas Ruiz, and Renaine Julian (former board member)—without your talents and dedication, the journal would not have been able to include so many interesting and impactful articles and we could not have begun accepting, reviewing, and publishing peer reviewed articles. Thank you all for volunteering to work alongside me and for improving *Florida Libraries* so much. And finally, I have to thank Karen Layton for all the incredible support, encouragement, and brainstorming during my tenure as editor. So much of the detail work, the great ideas, the eye-catching visuals, and the million little details that make each edition come together has been done by Karen. I truly could not have done this job so well without her help. I cannot thank you enough, Karen.

Life has brought me back home to Massachusetts, and so it makes sense for me to step aside and make room for a new leader to take the reins. I look forward to seeing how the journal continues to grow and change in the future and I am optimistic about how *Florida Libraries* will continue to develop. Thank you all for reading, writing, and sharing your thoughts with me these past few years.

Sincerely,

Karen Urbec  
*Florida Libraries* Editor



Mary Daniels  
*Florida Libraries*  
Book Reviews Editor



Claudia Holland  
*Florida Libraries*  
Copy Editor



Keila Zayas-Ruiz  
*Florida Libraries*  
Peer Review Coordinator

# From the President



As my time as Florida Library Association President is coming to an end, I wanted to reflect on this past year. My theme was reset and reconnect and let me tell you, I've had to reset many times this year. My goal was to approach each day with positivity and do my best to navigate through different protocols, challenges and keeping library staff a priority.

Starting as FLA President with the Executive Director resigning was a challenge, but it afforded me the opportunity to learn even more about FLA and get the chance to work more closely with Karen Layton, Communications and Events Manager. Karen is so dedicated to FLA and with her help FLA continued to run smoothly. I am so happy we have Jennifer Pratt as our Interim Executive Director. She jumped right in and planned Library Day and made it seamless. She will be a wonderful guide as we begin the search for an Executive Director. Karen and Jennifer have been such a pleasure to work with along with an amazing Board, I couldn't have done it without them.

During my term in office we started the arduous task of updating the FLA bylaws and reviewing the Public Library Standards and Outcomes. Our board will continue to work on these items going forward.

I loved that FLA continued the theme from Past President, Laura Spears, "Lead Inclusively," with the DEIA task force becoming a committee. I have really enjoyed the diversity discussions put together by the committee. The interaction between those in attendance and reading something that I may not have picked up on my own was refreshing and inspiring.

Engaging with our committees was very important this year with the numerous book challenges across the state. The Intellectual Freedom Committee and Board worked diligently to come out with a Statement on the Freedom to Read. This is a call to all of us to uphold our Library Bill of Rights and promote and protect the Freedom to Read.

Our advocacy committee worked hard to set up an in-person library day in Tallahassee along with a virtual presence throughout the state. We were successful on our platform and continue to strive to get more funding for libraries.

Getting involved with FLA committees is a wonderful way to get to know FLA members from across the state. I enjoyed attending all the committee meetings. Professional Development hosted a Health and Wellness Series that resonated with our reconnecting theme as health and mental care are so important to making us better workers. I am very excited to see the Poster Sessions that will be at conference that this committee vented.

Membership and Communications are all so tied together in how they work throughout the year to enhance our Association. Communications worked on different ways to get the word out to our members and I love that Membership will have a table at conference. Stop by and visit the membership table and share what you love about being an FLA member.

And I can't forget the Conference Committee and the Awards Committee – how exciting to have an in-person conference to reconnect with all our colleagues across the state! Attending the Conference Committee and Awards Committee meetings exemplifies how strong volunteers can be when they work together. The time and dedication will be evident in the conference and all the amazing things they have planned for attendees. And wait until you hear about our award winners this year! You will be inspired!

Thank you for letting me serve as President. I plan to reset after conference and look forward to reconnecting with all of you in my support of FLA as Past President.

Sincerely,

Phyllis Gorshe  
2021-2022 President  
Florida Library Association

# From the Executive Director



I've had an amazing journey the last 6 months as your Interim Executive Director. The citizens of Florida are extremely fortunate in their libraries of all kinds, sizes, and budgets. This issue of Florida Libraries celebrates the successes of our libraries and library staff through the Florida Library Awards for 2022. I hope you will enjoy reading about the wonderful services Florida libraries are providing and be inspired. This issue also describes the 2022 Annual Conference events planned for you both in person and virtually. You won't want to miss this conference, if you cannot travel, I encourage you to attend virtually.

I am inspired daily as I work with the FLA leadership to build capacity and sustainability for the next 100 years of FLA with attention to the past and expectations for an even better future. When I reflect on how we can work together towards our goals for the association I think of the metaphorical "three-legged stool". One leg is Inward – the work of the staff, the committees, and the business of the association. The second leg is Outward to the membership and partners; communicating, transparency, and responsive. The third leg is upwards to the governance; advising, listening, and supporting. It's a balancing act, but the stool will stay steady if we keep all three legs in mind. We are working to make FLA a three-legged stool that will be safe to stand upon.

The first priority of the Inward leg is to secure a new executive director that will provide the leadership needed as the socio-political environment continues to change and impact our libraries and communities. The Human Resources committee has begun the search and plans to have the Executive Director onboard by September. I have agreed to stay on until that happens. Another high priority is ensuring the association is sustainable and securely funded. The Finance committee is committed to balancing the budget while keeping revenues up and expenses down. FLA is dependent upon the work of our volunteer committees. Committee membership provides our members the perfect opportunity to share their expertise and learn from their peers.

FLA is a member-driven association and needs a strong Outward leg to continue and expand upon the history and traditions of a 100-year-old organization. It is important to provide our members with reasons to join thinking of their careers, their professional development, and the improvement of their library services. It is equally important to appeal to the idea of professionalism to share their expertise, mentor other librarians, and support the ideals of the profession. FLA will continue to provide resources, learning opportunities, and respond to issues affecting libraries and our communities.

Upwards leg to Governance, including the Board of Directors, the State Library and library funders is the third leg and equally important. FLA is taking a good look at the Bylaws and the policies to increase their usability and ensure the governance documents are up-to-date. The new Board of Directors are ready to step into their important roles and lead the association in 2022-23. The FLA staff is working to keep all three legs "in the know" through carefully planned communications and social media posts.

The three legs of our stool stand firm and we are doing our best to keep them steadfast. I enjoy meeting with all of you and look forward to seeing you at the conference. Please send me an email, call me, or grab me at the conference if you have concerns, ideas, or questions.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Pratt  
Interim Executive Director

# Membership Matters

## 2022 Business Members



CDygart Solutions

Library Consulting Services  
Experience | Collaboration | Results



[driving-tests.org](http://driving-tests.org)

EBSCO



HARVARD • JOLLY  
ARCHITECTURE



smarthorizons  
CAREER ONLINE HIGH SCHOOL



\*Members as of the time of publication

# Membership Matters

## 2022 Friends, Foundations & Board Members

Ann Browning Masters

Broward Public Library Foundation

Dunedin Friends of the Library

Florida Authors & Publishers Association

Florida Humanities Council

Friends of Deltona Library

Friends of East Lake Community Library

Friends of Fort Lauderdale Libraries

Friends of Library ACLD

Friends of Pine Island Library

Friends of the Bay County Public Libraries

Friends of the Boca Raton Public Library, Inc.

Friends of the Broward County African-American Research Library and Cultural Center, Inc.

Friends of the Broward County Library, Inc.

Friends of the Central Ridge Library

Friends of the Coastal Region Library

Friends of the Columbia County Public Library

Friends of the Daytona Beach Regional Library

Friends of the Deerfield Beach Percy White Library

Friends of the Gulf Gate Library

Friends of the Hugh Embry Branch Library of Pasco County

Friends of the Key West Library

Friends of the Largo Library, Inc.

Friends of the Library of Collier County

Friends of the Library of Tampa-Hillsborough County, Inc.

Friends of the Main Library St. Augustine

Friends of the Mary Esther Library

Friends of the Miami-Dade Public Library

Friends of the Middleburg-Clay Hill Library

Friends of the Nature Coast Lakes Region Library

Friends of the North Miami Public Library, Inc

Friends of the Okeechobee County Public Library

Friends of the Palm Beach County Library

Friends of the Seminole Library

Friends of the Stirling Road Branch Library

Friends of the Taylor County Public Library

Friends of the Wilton Manors Library

Honorable Max Rosenn Memorial Law Library

Library Foundation for Sarasota County

Melrose Library Association, Inc

Palmetto Friends of the Library

\*Members as of the time of publication



# Membership Matters

## 2022 Organizational Members

Bethune-Cookman University  
Boynton Beach City Library  
Broward College  
Broward County Library  
Charlotte County Library System  
City of Parkland Library  
Clearwater Public Library System  
College of Central Florida  
Collier County Public Library  
Daytona State College  
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University  
Ethel M. Gordon Oakland Park Library  
Everglades University  
Florida Academic Library Services Cooperative/FLVC  
Florida Atlantic University Library  
Florida International University  
Florida National University  
Florida State University, Strozier Library  
Full Sail University  
Gadsden County Public Library  
Gulf Beaches Public Library  
Hodges University Library  
Lake County Library System  
Largo Public Library  
Lee County Library System  
LeRoy Collins Leon County Public Library  
Library and Information Resources Network, Inc.  
Lighthouse Point Library  
Maitland Public Library  
Manatee County Public Library  
Mandel Public Library of West Palm Beach  
Miami-Dade Public Library System  
Mulberry Public Library  
New River Public Library Cooperative  
North Florida South Georgia Veterans Health System  
North Miami Beach Public Library  
Orange County Library System  
Osceola Library System - Hart Memorial Library  
Palm Beach County Library System  
Palm Harbor Library  
Panhandle Public Library Cooperative System  
Pasco County Library System  
Pinellas Public Library Cooperative  
Sanibel Public Library District  
Santa Rosa County Public Library  
Sarasota County Library System  
SEFLIN  
Seminole County Public Library  
South Florida State College  
St. Lucie County Library System  
St. Petersburg Library System  
Sumter County Library  
Tallahassee Community College  
Tampa Bay Library Consortium  
Tampa-Hillsborough County Public Library  
Temple Terrace Public Library  
The Society of the Four Arts  
Three Rivers Regional Library  
University of South Florida  
Volusia County Public Library  
Webber International University

\*Members as of the time of publication

**▶▶▶ RESET & RECONNECT**  
**MAY 23-25, 2022**  
FLORIDA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION  
Sawgrass Marriott Golf Resort & Spa

President's Reception

New Member Session

Opening Session

Fun Walk/Run

Breakfast with Friends

2022 FLA Posters

Posters

Awards

Authors

Sunset Cruise

Lightning Rounds

Breakout Sessions

Performers Arcade

Exhibit Hall

**We hope to see you there!**

# Thank you to our Sponsors!!

## Platinum



## Gold



## Silver



## Bronze



## Live-stream Sponsor



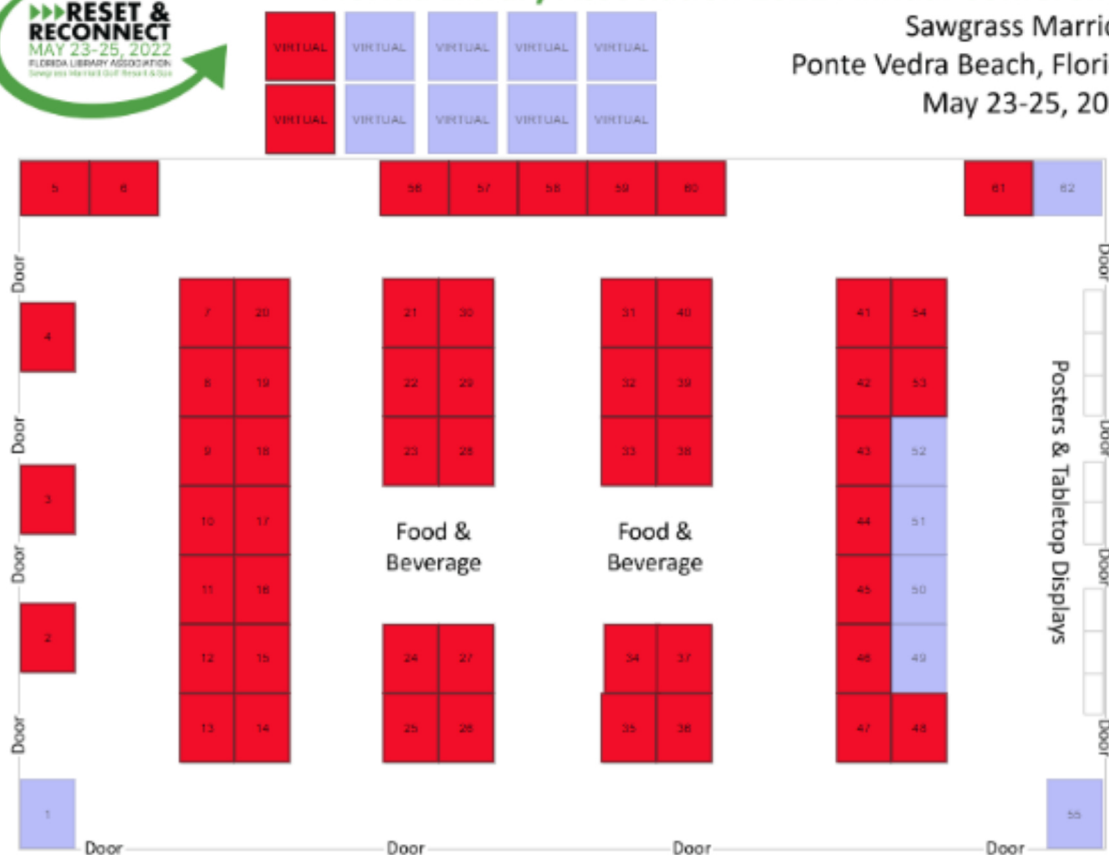
\*Sponsors as of the time of publication

# Thank you to our Exhibitors!!



## Florida Library Association 2022 Annual Conference

Sawgrass Marriott  
Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida  
May 23-25, 2022



Exhibitor	Booth	Exhibitor	Booth
Architecture Travel Companion, LLC	31	LOTE Online for Kids	Virtual
Auto-Graphics, Inc.	9	Lyngsoe Systems	25
AWE Learning	8	LYRASIS	45
Baker & Taylor	19	MAGAZINE SUBSCRIPTION SERVICE AGENCY	2
Bibliotheca	11	Midwest Tape / hoopla digital services	23
BITS N PIECES PUPPET THEATRE INC	29	NewsBank inc.	48
Blackstone Library	28	Niche Academy	41
Brainfuse	44	OCLC	17
Brodart Co.	6	Old Dominion University	12
ByWater Solutions	35	OverDrive	Virtual
Colibri System	39	Playaway Pre-Loaded Products	57
Communico	43	PressReader	47
Creative Arts Unlimited, INC	54	R. George & Associates, Inc.	34, 37
CREATIVE LIBRARY CONCEPTS	58	Reference Solutions	10
Crowley Company, The	13	SEFLIN	21
Crypto Tutors	42	Smart Horizons Career Online High School	15
EBSCO Information Services	24	StackMap	20
Flooringworx	7	Swiftspace	40
Florida Grade-Level Reading Campaign/Florida Alliance of Children's Councils & Trusts	60	Tech Logic	59
Florida Humanities	26	The Wall Street Journal	61
Florida State University - School of Information	22	TLC - The Library Corporation	46
Florida Telecommunications Relay, Inc. (FTRI)	3	Today's Business Solutions	33
Florida Virtual Campus (FLVC)	32	Transparent Language, Inc.	56
Gale, a Cengage Company	36	U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services	53
Harvard Jolly Architecture	38	Williams Architects	18
Ingram Library Services	30	Wolters Kluwer	16
Insignia Software	5	WT Cox Information Services	4
International Library Services, Inc	27		
Library Interiors of Florida, Inc.	14		



▶▶▶ **2022 FLA  
Award Winners**

*Honoring Excellence  
in Florida Libraries*

### ▶▶▶ Lifetime Achievement Marshelle J. Berry

Marshelle Berry is worthy of the Lifetime Achievement Award because she has demonstrated her commitment to the library profession by serving in a variety of leadership roles for the past 35 years. She is willing to take risks and try new things, as evidenced by her work with children and teens, with authors and with elected officials, through library design and space management. She's led multiple teams through the changing landscape of library service, helping staff transition to increased focus on the communities they serve using data-driven approaches to community engagement.

### ▶▶▶ Library of the Year Boynton Beach City Library

At the Boynton Beach City Library, service to their community is not restricted by location, language, or income level. They strive to meet their patrons where they are needed most; whether that meant working out of a temporary site while their new building was being constructed, providing virtual programming during the pandemic, or creating free resources to kickstart local entrepreneurs. They took a year of inevitable change and transformed it into a challenge to be the library their community needs. A brand-new library was opened with modern technologies, a Creative Edge Studio makerspace, increased support of small businesses and entrepreneurs, revamped marketing, and they opened a Friends Bookstore.

### ▶▶▶ Leader of the Year Eric Head

Eric Head is a superb and passionate leader who for the past 26 years has and continues to give his heart and time to FLA, libraries and the community. His passion for intellectual freedom and free access are what he advocates for on a daily basis. His involvement in early literacy in the community is commendable and is to be emulated. He encourages his staff to invest in themselves and the Florida Library Association by getting involved in committees and the library community. He is a true leader who always does what is right for the greater and not for himself.

### ▶▶▶ Outstanding New Librarian Katrina Brockway

Katrina Brockway received her MLIS in December 2020 and is everything we want our new librarians to be: enthusiastic, dedicated, creative, and informed. She has a flair and a passion for programming, and is willing – excited, even – to innovate and iterate to meet the needs of the community. She doesn't, however, let her enthusiasm for programming detract from other areas of librarianship. She currently serves on two system committees, and dedicates a significant amount of time to advancing their goals, especially goals related to equity and inclusion. She consistently provides excellent customer service to both internal and external customers, frequently receiving particular praise for going above and beyond when helping. In all, Katrina embodies the future of librarianship.

### ▶▶▶ Outstanding Paraprofessional Niurka Olivera de Ojeda

Branch Clerk Niurka Olivera de Ojeda meaningfully improves the lives of the numerous students that take her Citizenship Inspired (CI) classes. Pivoting to a virtual format in 2020, Niurka provides free classes that help local immigrant residents prepare for the Naturalization Interview and Test. Through her herculean efforts, she has taught CI over 160 times to over 3000 students and conducted 67 one-on-one mock interviews. At least 74 students have passed under her tutelage. Niurka's passion for citizenship education extends beyond the classroom. She promotes CI through various media, provides guidance and assistance to other CI instructors, and has spoken at a regional library conference about the program to offer guidance about starting the series for libraries outside of Orange County.

### ▶▶▶ Betty Davis Miller Youth Services Award- Children Palm Beach County Library

Virtual Sensory Story Time or (VSST) was created to provide an opportunity to engage members of this community through an inclusive and interactive zoom story time complete with books, songs, and sensory activities. VSST was one of the most well-attended virtual programming for the Palm Beach County Library with a weekly average attendance of 22 members. Since its inception in May 2021, over 523 individuals have attended these story times with a passive viewership of over 342 participants. Due to the Palm Beach County Library System's ability to recognize a need in the community during a difficult time, VSST has become a beacon for the special needs community where members continuously attend and enjoy quality programming.

### ▶▶▶ Betty Davis Miller Youth Services Award- Teens Broward County Library

The Ready for College Workshop Series provides outstanding, potentially life-changing services to teens by helping them apply and prepare for college admission. By packaging the college-ready and SAT/ACT prep workshops and moving them online, BCL staff was able to eliminate barriers to program attendance, increasing it in a year's time by over 200 percent. It can be easily replicated by public and academic libraries.

### ▶▶▶ Excellence in Marketing and Public Relations Award Broward County Library

By not only meeting but exceeding its clear objectives, the BCL Marketing section's campaign to increase the open rates of Broward County Library's Fresh News newsletter proved highly successful and worthy of an FLA Excellence in Marketing and Public Relations Award. Starting with a well-defined goal, the campaign was carefully planned, strategically executed and creative in implementation. Objectives were clear, and they were accomplished and then exceeded. In addition to increasing open rates, this campaign resulted in further awareness of library services, a stronger connection to library customers and a

higher-quality product. Fresh News also received a gold award, the second-highest honor, in the 2021 Hermes Creative Awards competition's the eNewsletter category.

### ▶▶▶ Exemplary Instructional Programs or Service Award Jessica Daly

Jessica is worthy of this recognition due to her relentless dedication of improving health literacy of patients, family caregivers, and community members within the state of Florida. Her virtual health literacy program, which originated in March of 2020 on the cuff of the COVID-19 pandemic, continues today reaching people from across the country and around the world. Jessica has shown the importance of librarians working together to reach the needs of the community. Her work as a Consumer Health Librarian has been recognized by SC/MLA, MLA, ALA, and FLA. Jessica also published her first professional article this year which explains her work and this program.

### ▶▶▶ Intellectual Freedom Palm Beach County Library System

The Palm Beach County Library System made an exceptional contribution to increasing the right of access to stories featuring black girls as the lead character in print, electronic and audiobook content through adoption of the national #1000BlackGirlBooks campaign. The displays, bibliography and catalog-searchable hashtag have raised awareness in the community that this it is important for every child to see themselves in the books they read, and due to the ingenuity and perseverance of staff, young black female library members now have a resounding presence among the Library's collection.

### ▶▶▶ Library Innovation Tampa-Hillsborough County Public Library

Tampa-Hillsborough County Public Library launched its Read or Reject (ROR) program in March of 2021, the library's newest way to bridge Borrow by Mail and Reader's Advisory. Users tell us about their favorite things to read by completing an online form, and, based on that, librarians will pick three titles they think the customer will love from their branch and drop them in the mail. When the customer opens the box, they look at our picks and decide if they will READ...or REJECT! ROR had more than 450 requests during its first week.

### ▶▶▶ Outstanding Business or Media Partner Award St. Johns Cultural Council

The St. Johns Cultural Council has provided multiple avenues of enhancement to our Library System as part of a mutual interest in the quality of life of the citizens of St. Johns County. The new partnership with the Main Library and Waterworks building will increase opportunities for the Library and FOL to provide programs and events at a library location that had been unable to do as much in the past.

### ▶▶▶ Outstanding Scholarly Contribution Marielle Veve

Marielle is well deserving of the Outstanding Scholarly Contribution Award because she has dedicated most of her 20-year library career to research and publish on practical, but unexplored topics with a high demand in the library field. Examples of these are her free RDA cataloging Booklet and E-book cataloging workshop (Serials Librarian), in addition to many other articles and presentations on non-MARC metadata duties, workflows, harvesting processes, authority control, and electronic theses & dissertations. Her publications are known for transforming complex, unfamiliar topics into simple manageable ones that have helped many librarians in their every day work tasks.

### ▶▶▶ Friends Newsletter of the Year Friends of the Library of Alachua County

The Library and its Friends, the quarterly newsletter of the Friends of the Library of Alachua County (FOL), is produced by a committee of FOL volunteers who write articles, submit original photographs, and promote FOL and library programs and activities. Most FOL members receive the newsletter on-line, where bright color photographs and clear, concise writing attract readers and encourage their engagement with all eight pages of the publication. Printed copies are distributed to branch libraries for community readers and to FOL members. During the recent pandemic while the book house was closed the FOL newsletter was a major source of information and communication with FOL members.

### ▶▶▶ Friends Website Award Friends of the Citrus County Library System

In January of 2021, the Citrus Libraries Web Development team partnered with the Friends and began the research phase of what a rebranding and website update would look like. Through their efforts, an updated logo, additional secondary logo, and a set of brand guidelines were developed. With much input and encouragement from the Friends, the team then embarked on the updating process of the website, taking the current website down for about three weeks, to rebuild it in-house, from the ground up. The team worked closely together with the Friends to bring a professional and engaging format to the new website giving the Friends of the Citrus County Library System (FOCCLS) a platform to share their mission with all of Citrus County.

### ▶▶▶ Friends Special Projects Friends of the LeRoy Collins Leon Public Library System

In 2022, the Friends undertook a new project: A Library of Things for the community. A Library of Things is a collection of items available for checkout other than books, such as household and gardening tools, indoor/outdoor games, and musical instruments. Based on the community input received, the Friends proceed with awarding a grant to the library of the purchase of the items. The initial grant from the Friends of the Library was \$15,000. To date, over \$4,000 has been spent on 53 items.

# 2022 FLA Scholarship Winners



## ▶▶▶ FSU Scholarship Winner- Jesse Rushing

Jesse is currently a Library Clerk with the Walton County Public Library System. Committee members noted his dedication to rural libraries. Jesse plans to stay in his home library system, and has several long-term projects he's working on that he hopes to see come to fruition in the years to come.

*"This scholarship allows me to restart my graduate career and move closer to my professional goals."*

## ▶▶▶ USF Scholarship Winner- Amanda Wright

Amanda is currently a Library Service and Technology Guide 2 at the Hillsborough County Public Library Cooperative. Committee members noted the strength of her recommendation letters. She has ambitions to take on leadership roles, and "would love the chance to develop a culture of positivity, cooperation, and trust."

*"Beyond alleviating a financial burden and allowing me the peace of mind to focus on my classes this semester, being a recipient of the Bernadette Storck University of South Florida Graduate Scholarship is an honor and a responsibility that I do not take lightly. To me, it indicates the trust and expectation that I will give back to my community in a meaningful way as a library professional – and I intend to do exactly that. Thank you for your confidence in me!"*



## ▶▶▶ Minority Scholarship Winner- Joseph Delloso

Joseph is currently a Library Associate IV at the South Bay Branch of the Palm Beach County Library System. Joseph scored the highest of all applicants this year. The committee noted the strength of his application and were impressed by how professional it was. His passion for the Glades community shined through in both of his essays, and his desire and commitment to do right by this community was moving. One committee member noted that his essays "[spoke] to his own feelings and thoughts which align directly with those of ALA and FLA core beliefs". Overall, Joseph was found to be very deserving of this scholarship.

*"This scholarship means so much to me! The young people of the Glades community deserve to have someone at their library who has the knowledge and skills to enrich their lives and help them achieve their goals. This scholarship will help me be that person, and I'm so grateful for the opportunity to serve my community better."*





# Empowering Students through Library Technology:

## Utilizing 360 Cameras to Create Immersive Educational Content

By: Adam Chalmers, Systems and Digital Technologies Librarian, University of North Florida; Kelly Hovinga, Virtual Learning Librarian, University of North Florida



## Introduction

Virtual Reality (VR) is becoming ubiquitous in modern corporations, research, entertainment, and education. Companies are using VR for digital showrooms, development, and a myriad of other uses.<sup>1</sup> Universities and schools are using it to teach medical techniques, empathy, and even chemistry concepts.<sup>2</sup> Over the last five to six years, libraries have adopted this technology. Frequently, the amount of technical skill, cost considerations, technophobia, and available applications has limited the adoption of VR technology and curtailed sustained usage.<sup>3</sup> However, despite these barriers, immersive VR still presents a high-impact educational experience for users.<sup>4</sup> VR library initiatives allow individuals to experience technology and build relevant life skills. Additionally, recent advances in 360 capturing technology and software have simplified and reduced the cost of creating immersive VR content. At the same time, the reduction of price in VR headsets makes this content more accessible. This article will discuss the barriers to creating effective VR content for learning and some of the low-cost and low-technical expertise solutions for overcoming said barriers.

## Immersive Virtual Reality and Education

Researchers have found immersive VR content to be an effective learning tool and worth the time of educators and libraries to adopt. VR experiences positively impact student engagement and their sense of self-efficacy.<sup>5</sup> Essentially, the emotional component of learning is met more effectively in VR than in some traditional classroom settings. As many people who speak before audiences know, competing with a cell phone, the conversation of friends, or even the birds outside a window, can be challenging. However, VR headsets block out all other distractions. These experiences occur in the first-person perspective, creating an enhanced emotional connection with the content or a sense of actually being in the virtual world. Additionally, VR content is well suited to specific analytical tasks which require visualizing complex spatial concepts, making it an effective research and teaching tool.<sup>6</sup> Uses of VR in education include mapping world heritage sites, aerial mapping visualizations, data analysis, and even creating/visualizing the docking between ligands and complex proteins in chemistry.<sup>7</sup> In many ways, VR allows users to see information or locations that would be impossible or costly for them to see in person. Other researchers have found VR content particularly helpful in empathy learning.<sup>8</sup> Numerous free applications exist on VR content platforms focused on diversity, critical race theory, and accessibility. Due to the positive aspects of VR, educators have adopted the technology in most subject areas, including the humanities, the social sciences, and STEM fields. However, as the widespread adoption of VR has taken hold, there are considerable barriers to VR as an educational tool.

VR technology is well suited and worthwhile to education, but only under certain circumstances. Ensuring that technology contributes to teaching the desired learning goals is one of the primary considerations for instruction.<sup>9</sup> Regardless of how beautiful or interactive an application may be, it is of little use to students or teachers if it does not cover the desired information. To a certain extent, lesson planning, such as including discussions, worksheets, and reflective techniques, can ensure that students learn the intended information. However, a solid VR application geared towards the specific learning goals of a class makes teaching with VR significantly streamlined. In an ideal VR learning experience, the facilitator or educator utilizes a VR experience focused on the core content for the lesson plan and includes reflective components like discussions or worksheets. Some researchers have found that users learn more about using the headset than the content information.<sup>10</sup> Such instances may result from poor lesson planning and unrelated VR content. Other educational VR technology users have found limited content covering their desired focus.<sup>11</sup> VR technology is recent, and the collection of free applications for education is still growing. Consequently, many educators and researchers have chosen to create their own VR content specifically geared towards their desired learning goals and environments. This option was historically limited to institutions with technological know-how and funding.

In recent years, capturing 3D information has become significantly cheaper and more accessible, allowing k-12 educators,

---

<sup>1</sup> "IKEA Virtual Reality Showroom." Accessed August 23, 2021. <https://demodern.com/projects/ikea-vr-showroom>; Bernard Marr, "The Amazing Ways Companies Use Virtual Reality For Business Success." *Forbes*, (2021) <https://www.forbes.com/sites/bernardmarr/2017/07/31/the-amazing-ways-companies-use-virtual-reality-for-business-success/>; Paul James, "Audi's Next-Gen Showrooms Are Powered by Rift and Vive," *Road to VR* (blog), (2016) <https://www.roadtovr.com/audi-virtual-reality-car-showroom-htc-vive-pre-oculus-rift-cv1/>.

<sup>2</sup> Feng-Qin Chen et al., "Effectiveness of Virtual Reality in Nursing Education: Meta-Analysis." *Journal of Medical Internet Research* 22, no. 9 (2020), doi: 10.2196/18290; Victoria Gulick et al., "Effect of a Virtual Reality-Enhanced Exercise and Education Intervention on Patient Engagement and Learning in Cardiac Rehabilitation: Randomized Controlled Trial." *Journal of Medical Internet Research* 23, no. 4 (2021), <https://doi.org/10.2196/23882>; Aleshia Huber et al., "Becoming Immersed: Using Virtual Reality Technologies in Academic Libraries to Expand Outreach and Enhance Course Curricula." *College & Undergraduate Libraries* 27, no. 2-4 (2020), <https://doi.org/10.1080/10691316.2021.1902892>; Filip Jaskiewicz et al., "Chest Compressions Quality during Sudden Cardiac Arrest Scenario Performed in Virtual Reality: A Crossover Study in a Training Environment," *Medicine* 99, no. 48 (2020), <https://doi.org/10.1097/MD.00000000000023374>; Donghee Shin, "Empathy and Embodied Experience in Virtual Environment." *Computers in Human Behavior* 78, no. C (2018), <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chb.2017.09.012>; Peng Wang et al., "A Critical Review of the Use of Virtual Reality in Construction Engineering Education and Training," *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health* 15, no. 6 (2018), <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph15061204>.

<sup>3</sup> Simon Bennie et al., "Teaching Enzyme Catalysis Using Interactive Molecular Dynamics in Virtual Reality," *Journal of Chemical Education* 96, no. 11 (2019): 2490, <https://doi.org/10.1021/acs.jchemed.9b00181>; Chen, "Effectiveness of Virtual Reality in Nursing Education," 2; Matt Cook et al., "Challenges and Strategies for Educational Virtual Reality: Results of an Expert-Led Forum on 3D/VR Technologies across Academic Institutions,"

<sup>4</sup> Matt Cook et al., "Challenges and Strategies for Educational Virtual Reality: Results of an Expert-Led Forum on 3D/VR Technologies across Academic Institutions." *Information Technology and Libraries* 38, no. 4 (2019): 31-34, <https://doi.org/10.6017/ital.v38i4.11075>; Negin Dahya et al., "Perceptions and Experiences of Virtual Reality in Public Libraries." *Journal of Documentation* 77, no. 3 (2021): 627-628, <https://doi.org/10.1108/JD-04-2020-0051>; Huber, "Becoming Immersed," 257-258; Panagiotis Kourtesis et al., "Validation of the Virtual Reality Neuroscience Questionnaire: Maximum Duration of Immersive Virtual Reality Sessions Without the Presence of Pertinent Adverse Symptomatology." *Frontiers in Human Neuroscience* 13 (2019): 2, <https://doi.org/10.3389/fnhum.2019.00417>.

<sup>5</sup> Cook, "Challenges and Strategies for Educational Virtual Reality," 26.

<sup>6</sup> Bennie, "Teaching Enzyme Catalysis Using Interactive Molecular Dynamics in Virtual Reality," 2493.

<sup>7</sup> Cook, "Challenges and Strategies for Educational Virtual Reality," 26.

<sup>8</sup> Shin, "Empathy and Embodied Experience in Virtual Environment," 66.

<sup>9</sup> Dahya, "Perceptions and Experiences of Virtual Reality in Public Libraries," 619.

<sup>10</sup> Dahya, "Perceptions and experiences of virtual reality in public libraries," 626.

<sup>11</sup> Cook, "Challenges and Strategies for Educational Virtual Reality," 33.

postsecondary institutes, and libraries to create VR content with specific learning goals. The equipment price for photogrammetry, laser scanning, and 360 video capturing has dropped, along with the software needed to create VR content.<sup>12</sup> In the following section, we will discuss how libraries can create VR content at little cost and with minimal technical expertise.

## 360 Video Content Considerations

Capturing 360 video content is much easier than in the past. A few years ago, individuals who wished to create 360 content had to take multiple photos at different angles from the same location.<sup>13</sup> Another option was to rig multiple cameras together to capture all angles of view from a single point simultaneously.<sup>14</sup> Before purpose-built 360 cameras, creators had to stitch together the files to create 360 videos.<sup>15</sup> Thus, the process consisted of creating a camera configuration, setting up a shot, collecting multiple image files, running the images through software, editing the images, and then repeating the process until the project was complete. Recently, several manufacturers have created consumer-grade cameras that record 360 content that simplifies file and post-production processing.<sup>16</sup> Using a modern 360 video recording camera reduces the number of image files a user needs to capture and eliminates the software stitching process; reducing the learning curve and alleviating some of the time commitment in creating 360 content.

At the University of North Florida, librarians use GoPro Max Cameras to capture 360 videos. The GoPro Max was released in 2019 and costs under \$400 depending on [current promotions](#). Its current MSRP is \$549 per GoPro's Web site.<sup>17</sup> Before this camera, the GoPro released the Fusion in 2017 at \$699.<sup>18</sup> The price difference suggests that the cost of 360 cameras continues to decline. Additionally, using the GoPro phone app simplifies capturing 360 content by streamlining the capture, downloading, and editing process into a single app. There are other 360 cameras on the market, with different positives and negatives; however, the price and simplicity of using the GoPro Max makes it a highly accessible camera. If a library has the funding, significantly more expensive cameras are also on the market. These options offer higher resolutions than the GoPro Max. High end camera arrays may also offer better results but require additional post processing.<sup>19</sup> Despite the variety of options available, the camera's usability was a primary deciding factor.

The Thomas G. Carpenter library also wished to make VR content creation accessible to students and faculty. To facilitate the creation of 360 content, the library systems unit purchased three GoPro Max cameras and made them available for checkout to students and faculty. The GoPro Max is relatively easy to use and durable, making it an excellent choice for technology circulation. The Max circulates as a kit that includes useful items a patron may need to capture content, such as cables, batteries, memory cards, and a mini tripod. Members of the Systems Unit also created laminated instruction cards to provide first-time users with basic information about the cameras. By offering the cameras to faculty and students, the library provided the necessary tools for creating 360 content for use in educational activities. The following section will discuss the workflow UNF librarians developed for capturing and creating VR content.

## Capturing, Editing, and Accessing 360 Content Using the GoPro Max

The GoPro Max functions similar to a standard camera for capturing videos and images. The notable difference is that it has two lenses (see fig. 1). To capture 360 content, users can toggle between standard and 360 videos by using the icon in the lower-left corner of the touchscreen (see fig. 2). Once the setting is selected, video can be captured by using the record button. Despite the simplicity of the process, the camera setup is pivotal. Any camera motion will cause users to become disoriented when capturing 360 videos for VR. It is essential to capture multiple scenes via cuts in the video instead of physically moving through space. Also, the position of the camera relative to the scene is essential. The circulating GoPro kits include small portable tripod approximately two feet high. These are mobile, but it is better to place the camera lens at head level. Doing so ensures any narrators do not tower over the VR viewers and reduces a viewer's sense of displacement due to height change. Finally, trim the video at the start and end of the footage. Trimming footage in the GoPro app is easy and will remove the awkwardness of moving away from the camera or interacting with a phone at the start and end of image capture.



Figure 1: View of GoPro Max front/  
<https://gopro.com/>



Figure 2: Side view of GoPro showing two lenses/  
<https://gopro.com/>



Figure 3: View of GoPro Max touchscreen/  
<https://gopro.com/>

<sup>12</sup>Ellyssa Kroski, *32 Virtual, Augmented, & Mixed Reality Programs for Libraries*. Chicago: ALA, (2021).

<sup>13</sup>Kroski, *Virtual, Augmented, & Mixed Reality Programs for Libraries*.

<sup>14</sup>Snežana Stupar-Rutenfrans, Loes E.H. Ketelaars and Marnix S. van Gisbergen, "Beat the Fear of Public Speaking: Mobile 360 Video Virtual Reality Exposure Training," *Cyberpsychology, Behavior, and Social Networking* 20, No. 10 (2017): 625.

<sup>15</sup>Stupar-Rutenfrans, Ketelaars and Gisbergen, "Beat the Fear," 625.

<sup>16</sup>Han Jin, "Insta360 One X2 Vs GoPro Max 2022: Which is Better for You," *Lucidcam*. accessed March 9, 2022, <https://lucidcam.com/insta360-one-x2-vs-gopro-max/>.

<sup>17</sup>"MAX," GoPro, accessed 03/09/2022, <https://gopro.com/en/us/shop/cameras/max/CHDHZ-202-master.html>.

<sup>18</sup>Sean O'Kane, "GoPro's Fusion 360 Camera Costs \$699 and Ships in November," *CircuitBreaker*, September 28, 2017, <https://www.theverge.com/circuitbreaker/2017/9/28/16374210/gopro-fusion-360-camera-price-release-date>.

<sup>19</sup>Vanessa Hand Orellana, "10 Things I Wish I Knew before Shooting 360 Video," *Cnet*, May 31, 2016, <https://www.cnet.com/tech/computing/360-cameras->

The easiest way to download a captured video and edit the content is to pair the GoPro Max with a smart phone or other mobile device. Users should install the "GoPro Quick" app on a phone or tablet and add the GoPro max camera to their devices by following the app instructions. After adding the camera, users can view GoPro footage on the app and share it to services such as OneDrive or Google Drive using the share icon. The download process is intuitive; however, the Library Systems Unit also provides a step-by-step process on their resource guide for students and faculty. GoPro also offers a cloud service for a yearly fee, but this is not required to use their device or app. Once a file is shared, the app converts the proprietary 360 files to MP4, making it usable in various editing software and apps.

While the GoPro Quick app will allow for the processing and clipping of VR videos, additional editing contributes to user engagement. UNF licenses Premiere Pro for video editing. Users can combine several VR videos into one and add voice-over or text annotations. Doing so allows for greater educational content sharing and can include reflective prompts. Users can obtain a seven-day free trial of Premiere Pro or purchase an individual license for \$20 a month. Due to the complexity of Premier Pro, this article will not address editing in detail. There are many tutorials by both Adobe and creators on YouTube that detail how to edit 360 footage. However, adding voice-overs, music clips, and text annotations allow for a significantly enhanced experience.

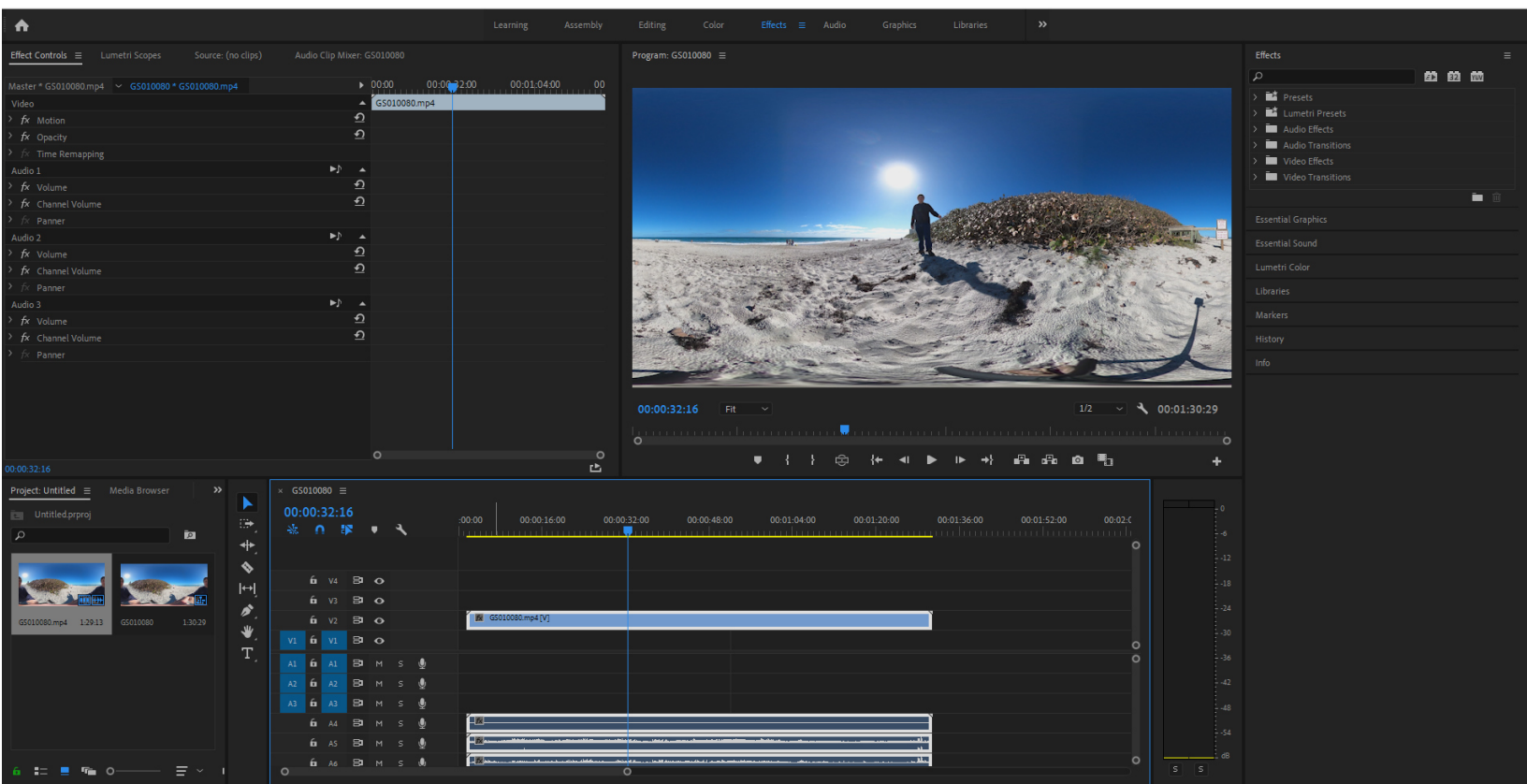


Figure 4. An example of the Premiere Pro editing interface.

Once edited and uploaded, YouTube is an excellent option for sharing 360 content. The user interface in YouTube allows phone-based VR viewing, such as Google Cardboard or Oculus devices with the YouTube app. Additionally, hosting on YouTube allows users to view videos on nearly any Internet-capable device outside of a VR headset. If 360 content is viewed in YouTube on a device with a gyro sensor such as an iPad or most smartphones, users can point the device where they want to look while viewing the video. Also, many media players such as VLC Media Player support 360 video playback, and PC users can click and drag to "look around" when viewing 360 content. This allows users who may suffer from motion sickness in VR to still interact with the video. It is worth noting, the GoPro app limits file size sharing to YouTube. However, after saving a video file in the GoPro app to the phone's local storage, larger videos can be loaded directly from the YouTube App up to a size of 256 GB or 12 hours.<sup>12</sup> In addition to allowing simplified access, using YouTube limits the need for hosting servers, making it a low-cost and easily accessible option for sharing content.

## Conclusion

With advancements in technology, 360 content for VR has become accessible to a broader swath of the population. With simplified editing software and reduced costs, users can create VR content that serves specific learning goals and educational contexts. By partnering with other stakeholders, libraries can create educational 360 content and expand the impact of VR implementation beyond commercially available experiences. Doing so allows for the creation of a new medium of Open Educational Resources that can be used by libraries, educators, and community members the world over.

<sup>20</sup>"Upload Videos Longer than 15 Minutes," Google, accessed March 9, 2022, <https://support.google.com/youtube/answer/71673?hl=en&co=GENIE.Platform%3DDesktop>.

## Bibliography

Bennie, Simon, Kara Ranaghan, Helen Deeks, Heather Goldsmith, Michael O'Connor, Adrian

Mulholland, and David Glowacki. "Teaching Enzyme Catalysis Using Interactive Molecular Dynamics in Virtual Reality." *Journal of Chemical Education* 96, no. 11 (2019): 2488–96. <https://doi.org/10.1021/acs.jchemed.9b00181>.

Chen, Feng-Qin, Yu-Fei Leng, Jian-Feng Ge, Dan-Wen Wang, Cheng Li, Bin Chen, and Zhi-

Ling Sun. "Effectiveness of Virtual Reality in Nursing Education: Meta-Analysis." *Journal of Medical Internet Research* 22, no. 9 (September 15, 2020): e18290. <https://doi.org/10.2196/18290>.

Cook, Matt, Zack Lischer-Katz, Nathan Hall, Juliet Hardesty, Jennifer Johnson, Robert

McDonald, and Tara Carlisle. "Challenges and Strategies for Educational Virtual Reality: Results of an Expert-Led Forum on 3D/VR Technologies across Academic Institutions." *Information Technology and Libraries (Online)* 38, no. 4 (December 2019): 25–48.

Dahya, Negin, W.E. King, Kung Jin Lee, and Jin Ha Lee. "Perceptions and Experiences of

Virtual Reality in Public Libraries." *Journal of Documentation* 77, no. 3 (January 1, 2021): 617–37. <https://doi.org/10.1108/JD-04-2020-0051>.

English. "IKEA Virtual Reality Showroom." Accessed August 23, 2021.

<https://demodem.com/projects/ikea-vr-showroom>.

Google. "Upload Videos Longer than 15 Minutes." . Accessed March 9, 2022. <https://support.google.com/youtube/answer/71673?hl=en&co=GENIE.Platform%3DDesktop>.

GoPro. "MAX." Accessed 03/09/2022. <https://gopro.com/en/us/shop/cameras/max/CHDHZ-202-master.html>.

Gulick, Victoria, Daniel Graves, Shannon Ames, and Pavitra Parimala Krishnamani. "Effect of a Virtual Reality–Enhanced Exercise and Education Intervention on Patient Engagement and Learning in Cardiac Rehabilitation: Randomized Controlled Trial." *Journal of Medical Internet Research* 23, no. 4 (April 15, 2021): e23882. <https://doi.org/10.2196/23882>.

Huber, Aleshia, Jennifer K. Embree, Amy Gay, and Neyda V. Gilman. "Becoming Immersed: Using Virtual Reality Technologies in Academic Libraries to Expand Outreach and Enhance Course Curricula." *College & Undergraduate Libraries* 27, no. 2–4 (October 1, 2020): 245–64. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10691316.2021.1902892>.

James, Paul. "Audi's Next-Gen Showrooms Are Powered by Rift and Vive." *Road to VR (blog)*, January 8, 2016. <https://www.roadtovr.com/audi-virtual-reality-car-showroom-htc-vive-pre-oculus-rift-cv1/>.

Jaskiewicz, Filip, Dawid Kowalewski, Katarzyna Starosta, Marcin Ciemiak, and Dariusz Timler. "Chest Compressions Quality during Sudden Cardiac Arrest Scenario Performed in Virtual Reality: A Crossover Study in a Training Environment." *Medicine* 99, no. 48 (November 25, 2020): e23374. <https://doi.org/10.1097/MD.00000000000023374>.

Jin, Han. "Insta360 One X2 Vs GoPro Max 2022: Which is Better for You." *Lucidcam*, Accessed March 9, 2022. <https://lucidcam.com/insta360-one-x2-vs-gopro-max/>.

Kourtesis, Panagiotis, Simona Collina, Leonidas A. A. Doulas, and Sarah E. MacPherson. "Validation of the Virtual Reality Neuroscience Questionnaire: Maximum Duration of Immersive Virtual Reality Sessions Without the Presence of Pertinent Adverse Symptomatology." *Frontiers in Human Neuroscience* 13 (2019). <https://doi.org/10.3389/fnhum.2019.00417>.

Kroski, Ellyssa. *32 Virtual, Augmented, & Mixed Reality Programs for Libraries*. Chicago: ALA, 2021.

Marr, Bernard. "The Amazing Ways Companies Use Virtual Reality For Business Success." *Forbes*. Accessed August 23, 2021. <https://www.forbes.com/sites/bernardmarr/2017/07/31/the-amazing-ways-companies-use-virtual-reality-for-business-success/>.

O'Kane, Sean. "GoPro's Fusion 360 Camera Costs \$699 and Ships in November." *CircuitBreaker*, September 28, 2017. <https://www.theverge.com/circuitbreaker/2017/9/28/16374210/gopro-fusion-360-camera-price-release-date>.

Orellana, Vanessa Hand. "10 Things I Wish I Knew before Shooting 360 Video." *Cnet*, May 31, 2016. <https://www.cnet.com/tech/computing/360-cameras-comparison-video-things-to-know-before-you-buy/>.

Shin, Donghee. "Empathy and Embodied Experience in Virtual Environment." *Computers in Human Behavior* 78, no. C (January 1, 2018): 64–73. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chb.2017.09.012>.

Stupar-Rutenfrans, Snežana, Loes E.H. Ketelaars and Mamix S.van Gisbergen, "Beat the Fear of Public Speaking: Mobile 360 Video Virtual Reality Exposure Training," *Cyberpsychology, Behavior, and Social Networking* 20, No. 10 (2017): 624-633. DOI: 10.1089/cyber.2017.

Wang, Peng, Peng Wu, Jun Wang, Hung-Lin Chi, and Xiangyu Wang. "A Critical Review of the Use of Virtual Reality in Construction Engineering Education and Training." *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health* 15, no. 6 (June 8, 2018): 1204. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph15061204>.