

## Reclaiming the Everglades

The University of Miami (UM) Library, in partnership with Florida International University (FIU) Library and the Historical Museum of Southern Florida, received a 1998 Library of Congress/Ameritech National Digital Library Grant of \$137,188 for "Reclaiming the Everglades: South Florida's Natural History, 1884-1934."

The three institutions will digitize historical materials that document the evolution of the Florida Everglades. Upon completion, the partnership will merge a series of separate yet interrelated collections at four institutions into a single resource for students, scholars, researchers, and other individuals. The project will digitize approximately 10,000 images, letters, documents, and pages of printed text.

This project represents the culmination of years of work by librarians and archivists at these institutions.

The invaluable support provided by the Library of Congress and Ameritech Corporation will help us create this unique historical and educational resource on the Everglades for the citizens of the world.

Gail Clement, who serves as project director for the Everglades Information Network & Digital Library project, a collaborative effort of FIU Libraries and Everglades National Park, observed that "Reclaiming the Everglades' . . . demonstrates the commitment and determination of South Florida's libraries to advance our knowledge about the past and present state of the Everglades." Rebecca Smith, archivist at the Historical Museum of Southern Florida, also hailed the project for its inter-institutional cooperation.

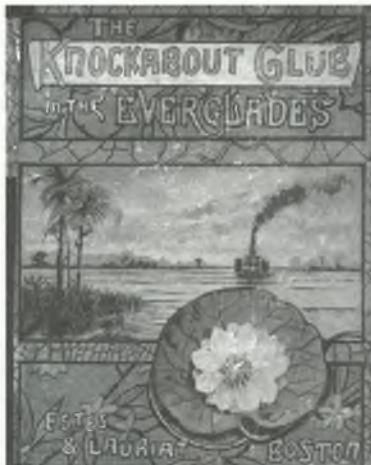
The Everglades, a unique subtropical ecosystem, bears a rich and troubled history. As this fragile wilderness wavers on the edge of environmental annihilation, the textual and vi-

sual history of this natural treasure also borders on destruction. The preservation of our natural resources and the survival of its textual and visual history are linked in this consorial project. Don L. Bosseau, director of libraries at UM, said, "This grant represents the unique joining of modern technology with rare and unique documentation of the history and ecology of the Everglades. The project is a precursor to the new approaches that libraries are embracing to enhance access to intellectual content."

Laurence Miller, executive director of FIU Library, commented, "We appreciate the opportunity this represents to enhance the content of the Everglades Information Network, based at FIU, and welcome the opportunity to share the technology that has been developed in this effort."

Primary source materials proposed for digitization in-

clude writings, correspondence, photographs, and related materials from many individuals and organizations. The selected assemblage represents the records of politicians, landowners, real estate companies, agriculturalists, scientists, naturalists, journalists, Indian rights activists, engineers, Native Americans, and others involved in the exploration, exploitation, or conservation of the South Florida environment.—*William E. Brown Jr., principal investigator and head of archives and special collections, University of Miami, [wbrown@umiami.ir.miami.edu](mailto:wbrown@umiami.ir.miami.edu).* ■



A book (c. 1887) about the adventures of the club that explored Lake Okechobee in the Florida Everglades.

### Feature your collection

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