

MO INFO

Newsletter of the Missouri Library Association

January 2023

Volume 54, Number 1

President's Column

Greetings, MLA Members!

I am honored to take the helm of MLA for what promises to be a most memorable year. I am thankful for the compassionate leadership that Past President Claudia Young brought to our organization in 2022. I also served on the board during the presidencies of Cindy Thompson and Cindy Dudenhoffer, both of whom were steadfast and unflinchingly creative under pressure. I am grateful for the opportunity to follow in the footsteps of all of these MLA leaders, and I plan to continue their work towards making MLA a more active, responsive association.

There are clearly lots of challenges ahead. Libraries and intellectual freedom issues are in the news media on a regular basis. In the recent public response to Secretary of State Ashcroft's proposal, library supporters provided an estimated 16,000 written comments in a one-month period. Every day, we are strengthening relationships with our patrons and like-minded organizations while promoting library ethics and values. It is impressive and inspiring.

MLA Legislative Advocacy Day is coming up on Tuesday, February 7. Please consider joining us in Jefferson City to speak with your legislators about the importance of Missouri libraries. Legislative Chair Cody Croan shares details about this event in this issue of MO INFO.

The 2023 MLA Conference will be held in Columbia at the Holiday Inn Executive Center October 4-6. Abbey Rimel (DBRL) and Jennifer Thompson (Mizzou Libraries) are our conference coordinators this year. CUNY Graduate Center Librarian/ALA President Emily Drabinski will be our opening keynote speaker. This promises to be a stellar conference, so get it on your calendars now.

I'll be making committee appointments early in this new year, so please keep an eye on the MLA listserv for specific areas of need. Your energy and efforts make a tremendous difference to MLA, and I promise that you will grow from the experience as well. Please don't hesitate to reach out to me with any questions or comments.

Thank you for all you do for MLA, and for Missouri libraries! I sincerely believe that together, we can accomplish anything.

Otter Bowman
MLA President 2023
mlapresident@molib.org



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Who’s inspiring you at your library? Nominate them!

Nominate someone to be our next Featured Library Employee!
They could be:



- ...a new employee you’d like to introduce
- ...someone with a unique job or on a unique career path
- ...an employee you find inspirational
- ...a coworker whose gifts you wish were more widely known
- ...someone who’s “an institution” full of interesting stories
- ...a role that has a new focus or is reaching a new audience
- ...someone you’d like to make more visible to potential employers

Submit name(s) and contact information, along with place of employment, to Bailey Compton at bcompton@stchlibrary.org. We’ll do all the work of contacting; we just need you to connect us!

Calendar of Events

Opportunities for training, and ideas are a click away with links to descriptions, availability, and any registration fees. All times CDT and subject to change.

[Additional classes can be found at Amigos Library Services and in their article.](#)

Date	Time CT	Event	Sponsor
Jan. 18	10 a.m.	NCompass Live: First Amendment Audits: What You Need to Know	Nebraska Library Commission
	12 p.m.	Five Biggest Mistakes in Content Creation	TechSoup
	1 p.m.	Level Up Your Book Displays	Niche Academy
	1 p.m.	Authors & ARCs	Booklist
Jan. 19	10 a.m.	Overdrive Webinar: Getting Started with Libby	Overdrive
	11 a.m.	Making Sense of Numbers	National Library of Medicine
	1 p.m.	The Occupational Outlook Handbook: Information on Hundreds of Occupations in the United States	FDLP
	1 p.m.	What's New in NovelList Plus?	EBSCO
Jan. 21		Future Ready Librarians® January Summit	All4Ed/Future Ready Librarians
Jan. 24	11 a.m.	How Your Company Can Be More Strategic About its Tech Spending	Harvard Business Review
Jan. 25	9 a.m.	Digital Preservation: What Libraries Need to Know	Indiana State Library
	10 a.m.	Learn About TechGirlz & Inspire Girls in Your Community Today!	Nebraska Library Commission
	12 p.m.	How to Write the World's Greatest Fundraising Letter	Blackbaud
	1 p.m.	ClinicalTrials.gov for Librarians	National Library of Medicine
	1 p.m.	Lateral Reading Mindset: Contextualizing Information Resources	Niche Academy
	1 p.m.	See Your Library Through Your Patron's Eyes	Library Land Project
	2 p.m.	Reconnecting & Restoring Wellness in Self	MALA
Jan. 26	12 p.m.	Effective Health Communication and Health Literacy: Understanding the Connection	National Library of Medicine
	8 a.m.	From ISBD to ISBDM: a bibliographic standard in transformation	IFLA
	12 p.m.	How to Really Reach the Latino Community	Colorado State Library
	1 p.m.	Sustainable and Passive Ways to Improve your Collection Environment	Connecting to Collections Care
Jan. 27		National NewsLitCamp®: Trust and Credibility	News Literacy Project
Jan. 30	1 p.m.	Digital Content Contributor Partnerships, Collaborating with GPO, and Building the National Collection	FDLP
Jan. 31	1 p.m.	What's the Point of APA Style? Relevance of a Writing Style to Life After Graduation	APA Style
	1 p.m.	OverDrive Webinar: How to Train Your Community on Libby	Overdrive
	2 p.m.	Ambiguity vs Librarianship	MALA
Feb. 1-Mar. 1	1 p.m.	Beyond an Apple a Day: Providing Consumer Health Information at Your Library	National Library of Medicine
Feb. 2	11 a.m.	Introduction to Digital Rights for Library Workers	Metro NY Library Council
Feb. 3	12 p.m.	Library Programs for Children with Disabilities: What Libraries are Doing Well and How They Can Improve	Emporia State
Feb. 7	1 p.m.	What's Trending? Digital Content Formats and Subjects to Plan for in 2023	Choice
Feb. 8	1 p.m.	Privacy Audits for Public Libraries	Niche Academy
Feb. 9	10 a.m.	Programs & Services for Immigrant & Refugee Patrons	MALA
	1 p.m.	Everything You can do with Crowdsourcing	Lyrasis
Feb. 13	12 p.m.	Create Effective Data Visualizations	National Library of Medicine
Feb. 14	2 p.m.	Social Media 102	Firespring
Feb. 15	1 p.m.	Health Insurance Literacy and Older Adults	Niche Academy
Feb. 16	1 p.m.	Collaborative Community Voices: The Blue, Gold and Black Digital Archive	ASERL
Feb. 23	11 a.m.	Copyright and Fair Use for Libraries	Metro NY Library Council
Feb. 23	1 p.m.	Preserving the Future by (Re)living the Past: Black Librarians and Social Change	ASERL
Feb. 28	10 a.m.	Collection Development in the Time of Book Banning	MALA
	2 p.m.	Marketing Trends Nonprofits Need to Know (and Embrace)	Firespring

Meet this issue's Featured Library Employee for the Missouri Library Association, Jeffrey Lawson!

What is your name, your library, and your role at the library?

Jeffrey Lawson, Meyer Library at Missouri State University in Springfield. Archives Specialist in Special Collections and Archives. I assist in research, digitization, and getting archival collections online.

What originally got you interested in working at a library?

I loved reading from a very early age. My mother used to drop me off at the Main Branch (now the Midtown Carnegie Branch) of the Springfield-Greene County Library (SGCL) every Saturday morning, and it was a magical place. I also worked in my high school library my senior year. Years later, I got a job at the circulation desk at the Main/Midtown branch of SGCL and was working with some of the same people who had checked books out to me when I was a child! A couple of years later I came back to my alma mater (Missouri State) to work in circulation at Meyer Library. For 18 years I dealt with overdue books and fines, but four years ago I had the opportunity to move to Special Collections and Archives and it's been an incredibly rewarding experience.

What keeps you coming back every day?

Being able to revisit the past, and helping people find their place (or their loved one's place) in history. I've been able to put together photos and articles for memorials or find photos of a woman in a play from 50 years ago that her children had never seen. That's a great feeling! I'm also working on processing the archives of Springfield Little Theatre and I know a lot of the people that have been involved in their productions over the years. I love opening a box of old photographs and seeing my friends there!

What's challenging about your work?

There's always a new mystery to solve! We get questions that lead us down some very interesting wormholes. My favorite thing to hear at work is "Hey, who is in this photo and when was it taken?"

Has your work made you either curious, or passionate, or awestruck about something?

I've had the opportunity to work on several projects about local television and radio, which was something I never really knew a lot about before. In the past two or three years, I've learned more about country music than I ever thought I wanted to know!

Who is one of your mentors?

Probably my grandmother, who because of illness never got to attend school regularly or receive any kind of diploma. She taught herself to read and always had mountains of books around her house. There wasn't a time when she wasn't reading or learning something.

What book, author, artist, show, or music are you engaging with this week, either personally or professionally? Persuade us in one or two sentences that we should pick this up, too.

I'm currently reliving my childhood by watching old TV shows. The internet has made this incredibly easy, so with the help of YouTube and the Internet Archive, I can come home from work and watch *Maude*, *McMillan and Wife*, *The Carol Burnett Show*, all the great old TV specials, and pretend it's 1972 all over again!



MLA Legislative Committee

Library Advocacy Day

A lot has happened for Missouri Libraries over the past several months. We started seeing bills pre-filed as of December 1, 2022. The legislative session started on January 4, 2023, and we are well on our way to Library Advocacy Day. If you haven't heard, this year's Library Advocacy Day is back to being in-person. It has been a long time since librarians have gotten together in one room since 2020, and I personally am looking forward to seeing many of you at the Welcome and Orientation in the morning of Library Advocacy Day. The event will be held at the State Library Interpretive Center in Jefferson City, on Tuesday February 7, 2023.

Registration is required and can be done [here](#). Doors will open at 9:30 a.m. with the schedule of speakers starting at 10 a.m. We will hear an update on library funding and any legislation affecting libraries that has been filed up to that point. Coffee will be provided in the morning and lunch will be brought in so that we can all connect and catch up over something warm to drink and a tasty meal.

What I look forward to most about Library Advocacy Day is having the opportunity to share the positive impacts my library makes every day in the community. I love getting to share the library's story and how that story plays a major role in the story of individuals' lives, families, and the entire community. And it's always a bonus to get someone else, our legislators, excited about how library resources not only improve the lives of their constituents, but the legislators' life when they are back in the district.

And don't fret about what you need to talk about with legislators. More information will be provided closer to the day and at the morning event to help you talk about library funding requests and your library.

After you register for Library Advocacy Day, don't forget to set up your visits with your library's Representatives and Senators between 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. on February 7. It's important to get those meetings set up as soon as possible to best ensure you get time with them.

Please, do not hesitate contact me with any questions about Library Advocacy Day at ccroanlibrarian@gmail.com or at cody@molib.org.

I look forward to seeing you there! I hope you all have had a very wonderful start to the 2023 year!

Best,
Cody Croan
MLA Legislative Committee, Chair

MLA Community of Interest for Energy and Sustainability



Are you interested in joining a Missouri Library Association Community of Interest for energy and sustainability? Contact incoming CI Chair JensenAdams@kclibrary.org with questions or interest.

Also, consider attending the January 31, 10 am-noon, [Amigos Community Conversations: Libraries and Sustainability](#). Addressing energy, the environment, and sustainability has become a localized issue, with more communities and institutions taking direct action by re-envisioning their operations and services. In this conversation, Jensen Adams, Energy and Sustainability Officer with Kansas City Public Library, and Dr. Lea Briggs, Department Administrator at University of New Mexico Libraries, will discuss their libraries' sustainability initiatives and how other institutions can begin to take ownership of their carbon footprint. Topics will include: using ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager utility data to target energy savings; adopting zero waste goals and processes involving sustainable purchasing, reuse management, and recycling; and ideas for programs, collections, and partnerships that engage staff, patrons, and students in sustainability. This is an exclusive, no charge event.



Amigos Member Research Libraries Gain Access to Skilltype With New Agreement

In a first-of-its-kind investment in increasing the capacity of its 500+ library members, Amigos Library Services is making implementing a multi-year partnership with talent management platform Skilltype. This partnership will provide access to a pilot group of research libraries to begin deploying a data-driven approach to organizational development. Initial pilot participants include Baylor University, Rice University, Southern Methodist University, Texas Christian University, Texas Tech University, The University of Texas at Austin, and Washington University in St. Louis.

"Amigos believes in the power of libraries working together and is committed to the growth and development of library staff. We are excited and honored to engage with these seven libraries and with the Skilltype team to bring this innovative platform to our community." shares Miguel Figueroa, President and CEO of Amigos.

"Library consortia are critical to the future of our field and profession," says Tony Zanders, founder and CEO of Skilltype. "This first-of-its-kind investment increases the capacity of its member libraries, both individually and collectively, creating a blueprint for how libraries navigate the talent challenges of this decade."

To learn more, view the [press release](#).

Amigos Welcomes 13 Libraries to SimplyE as Part of the E-Read Texas Program

Amigos welcomes its [13 newest SimplyE libraries](#), part of the E-Read Texas program sponsored by the Texas State Library and Archives Commission. To support these and future SimplyE libraries, Amigos continues to make investments in the network infrastructure that supports the SimplyE service.

"Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion in Cataloging and Technical Services" Registration Open

Libraries across the nation created and launched many Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) initiatives in recent years. These initiatives have been applied in all areas of the library, including cataloging and technical services.

[Register now](#) to attend the February 8 online conference, "Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion in Cataloging and Technical Services" to see these efforts moving from proposal to practice.

Missed "The Library Technology Roadmap"? Register Now for the Recordings!

If you [missed The Library Technology Roadmap conference](#) live, there's still a chance to catch up on the sessions. The day included several rounds of concurrent sessions and concluded with a dynamic closing keynote provided by Jessamyn West, a consultant, researcher, and international public speaker on library science and digital divide issues.

Save on Computers in Libraries 2023 with Amigos Discount Code

Through a special Group Discount Plan, Amigos members can save on registration to Information Today, Inc.'s *Computers in Library 2023* conference. The conference will take place March 28-30 in Arlington, VA with pre-conference half-day workshops being offered Monday, March 27. The conference program, *Libraries: Tech Partners for Community Sustainability*, highlights novel examples of libraries innovating, taking advantage of leading technology, and making it happen in their communities. [Save by using the exclusive group code](#): AMI23 with online registration.

Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion in Cataloging and Technical Services

An Amigos online conference
February 8, 2023

#AmigosEDI



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Member Discount News

Revamped Nursing Collection Now Available from Infobase

[Nursing: Current Concepts and Practices Collection](#) from Infobase is curated to help nursing students excel in their studies, pass licensure exams, and prepare for long-term job success in an increasingly complex health care system.

Infobase is an educational solutions company serving the school and library community with over 15,000 print, film, and digital products. This Amigos vendor partner provides students, educators, and librarians with a broad range of award-winning products that both enhance and enrich the learning experience.

Early Access and 20% Discount Available for Project MUSE Books 2023 Frontlist Collections

The 2023 Annual Frontlist Collections of books on Project MUSE are now available for purchase, with a [20% early bird discount](#) offered on purchases through February 2023. The Collections offer libraries the earliest access to newly-published books from over 200 university press and related scholarly publishers who participate in MUSE book collections.

Continuing Education Opportunities

On Request Training Available

Amigos will provide on-request training sessions, online or face-to-face, designed specifically to meet your library's needs. [On-request training](#) can be an effective way to meet specific and specialized training needs.

Missed a Conference? Register for Amigos Conference Archives

Amigos Online Conferences - Easy to Access. Meaningful to Attend

As a member benefit, all Amigos online conferences are free of charge to the staff of Amigos member institutions!

Register today for access to recent conferences:

- [The Library Technology Roadmap](#)
- [Materials on the Move: Strategies for Delivery, Distribution and Storage](#)
- [Amigos Member Conference 2022: Building the New Library Team](#)
- [Changing Standards, Local Choices: Navigating the Current Cataloging Landscape](#)

Know & Go Updates

Know & Go's are part of a series of informative web sessions covering topics of current interest. Designed for group participation, FREE for Amigos members and only \$35 for non-members, Know & Go Updates are presented online on Monday afternoons from 1:30 p.m.-2:30 p.m. CDT. [Register today!](#)

- [Know & Go: Free\(ish\) Project Management Tools](#) January 23
- [Know & Go: Quick and Easy Tips for Using Canva](#) January 30
- [Know & Go: Here's Your Sign: Best Practices for Library Signage](#) February 13
- [Know & Go: EDI \(Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion\) Organizational and Individual Self-Assessment Tools for Libraries](#) February 27
- [Know & Go: Conducting Effective Meetings](#) March 6
- [Know & Go: Generation Z: Libraries and the Post-Millennial Generation](#) March 13
- [Know & Go: Using Open Science to Deal with the Next Health Crisis](#) March 20

Upcoming Live Online Classes

Here's a quick look at upcoming Live Online classes. Classes are always being added so be sure to check out our full [course schedule!](#) All times CDT.

- [Let It Go: Weeding Your Library's Collection](#) January 17-19, 1-3 pm
- [Curriculum Mapping for Academic Librarians](#) January 24-26, 1:30-3:30 pm
- [Amigos Community Conversations: Libraries and Sustainability](#) January 31, 10 am-12 pm
- [Conducting Effective Community Needs Assessment 101](#) February 1- 2 , 1-3 pm
- [Incorporating Sustainability into Teaching, Programs, and Practice](#) February 6 -27 (Self-Paced)
- [Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion in Cataloging and Technical Services, Conference](#) February 8, 10 am-4 pm
- [Scripting Google Apps](#) February 13-17, 10 am-12 pm
- [SimplyE: App Interface & Searching](#) February 14, 1-2 pm
- [SimplyE: How to Promote SimplyE in Your Library](#) February 16, 1-2 pm
- [SimplyE: Roles & Library Configuration](#) February 21, 1-2 pm
- [Library Support and Services for First-Generation College Students](#) February 22, 1:30-3:30 pm
- [SimplyE: Modifying Metadata](#) February 23, 1-2 pm

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- [SimplyE: Lists & Lanes](#) February 28, 1-2 pm
- [Getting Started with Grant Writing](#) March 1, 1-3 pm
- [SimplyE: Troubleshooting](#) March 2, 1-2 pm
- [Introduction to Scholarly Metrics](#) March 3, 1-3 pm
- [SimplyE: Statistics](#) March 7, 1-2:30 pm
- [SimplyE @ Amigos: An Overview and Demonstration](#) March 9, 11 am-12 pm
- [Library Management: Managing Personnel](#) March 9, 1:30 -3:30 pm

[Introduction to Archival Practice](#) March 13 - 16, 2 -3:30 pm

Missouri Evergreen

Missouri Evergreen Regional Circulation Training



On November 17, 2022, thirty-eight staff members from twelve Missouri Evergreen libraries gathered at Scenic Regional Library–Union Branch for Regional Circulation Training. Also in attendance were Missouri Evergreen Executive Director, Mickey Coalwell, and Missouri Evergreen Cataloger, Liz Rudloff. The training session was led by Diane Disbro, Circulation Coordinator at Scenic Regional Library.

Two benefits of being a member of Missouri Evergreen are resource sharing (3.8 million items are owned and shared by member libraries) and peer support. With 60 member libraries, there are real people to contact for sharing ideas and answering questions. The November 17 training session is an example of the peer support offered to members. Excellent technical support is provided by Equinox.

More information about Missouri Evergreen can be found on the website moevergreenlibraries.org. Libraries interested in joining the consortium may contact Sue Lightfoot-Horine, President of the Executive Board, at director@livingstoncountylibrary.org.





St. Louis Regional Library Network

The St. Louis Regional Library Network Council Seeks 2023 SLRLN Tech Expo Proposals

Join us April 5th, 2023 for the SLRLN Tech Expo! *This virtual conference is for all library staff from any type of library!*

What interesting tech tools, practices, programs, platforms, strategies, or ideas are creating success at your library? We want to hear about it! Proposals could relate to, but are not restricted to, any of the following topics:

- Artificial intelligence
- Censorship and filtering
- Consortial resource and system sharing
- Cybersecurity and privacy
- Digital humanities
- Digitizing collections / archives
- Digital preservation
- Emerging technologies
- Google Tools
- Institutional or digital repositories
- Intersections of technology and Information literacy
- Learning management systems
- LibGuides / LibAnswers
- Library information technology competencies
- Makerspaces
- Metadata
- Mobile technologies
- Online instruction
- Online meeting platforms
- Open content, software, and technologies
- Practical applications of linked data
- Search engine optimization
- Social media
- User experience
- Virtual programming
- Virtual reality



[Submit your idea for the 2023 Tech Expo by February 15th!](#)

Presenters will be asked to submit, if possible, their final presentation slides and/or electronic content (video, audio, etc.) to be made available on the SLRLN website following the event. If you would like to hang this on a bulletin board or give to staff that might be interested, here is a [printable flyer](#):-

If you have any questions, please contact slrln@amigos.org. Thank you!

Cindy A Miller
St. Louis Regional Library Network President
<https://slrln.org>

University of Missouri – Columbia

New View for MU’s Engineering Library

The Engineering Library and Technology Commons on MU’s campus has a new view. The beloved “Big Window”, which sees relaxed study, conversation, and many a graduation photo, has always looked out onto Noyes Hall. The red brick provided a striking backdrop and a much-needed shield from the sun. Noyes was constructed in 1922 and was named after Guy Lincoln Noyes, dean of medicine. It was constructed as an addition to Parker Memorial Hospital, later known as Parker Hall. Most recently, both held lab space. Noyes and Parker were two of the eight buildings slated for demolition as part of the University of Missouri Space Reduction and Strategic Relocation Plan. With Parker and Noyes gone, the Big Window now frames a very different view. UV film was applied to the big window to protect the collection from the now unobstructed sunlight. While we are sorry to see our neighbors torn down, we are eager to see the greener view.



Pryor Appointed Director of Digital Initiatives

Steven Pryor has been appointed to the new position of director of digital initiatives at MU Libraries effective Dec. 1, 2022. Steven has the experience and skills to be effective in this role, as evidenced by his work at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville and the University of Washington in Seattle. At SIUE, he implemented and launched the university’s first institutional repository. At UW, he developed a new data repository, supported the integrated library system, and launched new publishing platforms for researchers.

Steven has served here at Mizzou since the fall of 2018, and he has proven his skills and abilities consistently. As digital scholarship librarian, he promoted and collected content for MOspace, consulted with and advised researchers on data management and digital research, and earned certification as a “Carpentries” instructor to teach Software and Data Carpentry workshops that introduce foundational coding and research computing skills to researchers. As MU head of digital services, later renamed digital scholarship, he added oversight of the libraries’ digitization activities and direct responsibility for MOspace and the Digital Library to his responsibilities.



This new position involves introducing and refining new technology, scripting and automation, a ticketing/project management system, launching a new journal publishing platform, and other tools and processes to improve or ensure user satisfaction, image quality, and preservation. Most recently, he has worked to ensure continuity in the ongoing FOLIO migration by tracking and reporting issues, troubleshooting and resolving system problems, and facilitating the various continuing post-migration cleanup and administrative tasks for both MU and UM Systems.

Meadowcroft Appointed Public Health and Community Engagement Librarian

Taira Meadowcroft accepted the position of public health and community engagement librarian at the MU Health Sciences Library effective December 1st. Reporting to the director of the Health Sciences Library, this is a newly created role that will focus on promoting public health initiatives across the University of Missouri campus, build collaborative partnerships and expand opportunities for users across the state to engage with the J. Otto Lottes Health Sciences Library.

Taira joined the University of Missouri Libraries as a graduate library assistant in August 2014 and was later hired as the information services librarian at the Health Sciences Library in July 2015. She also worked as a library associate at the Daniel Boone Regional Library and as a public library leadership fellow with the School of Information Science and Learning Technologies here at MU. Taira graduated from SISLT with her MLIS in 2015 and holds a bachelor's degree in English from Truman State University. She has been an active member of several library committees and has also volunteered as a conference planning team member for the Library Marketing & Communications Conference.



University of Missouri – Kansas City



Meet our new Associate Dean of Library Resources and Services: Brenda Linares! Brenda (pronouns she/her/ella) began at UMKC on Nov. 1, 2022. Her degrees come from California State University, Northridge; the University of California, Los Angeles; and North Carolina State University. She has a wide range of library experience from working at the National Library of Medicine, Louis Calder Memorial Library in Florida, and most recently A.R. Dykes Library at the University of Kansas Medical Center here in Kansas City as the School of Nursing liaison and health sciences librarian.

Brenda's skills, experience, and expertise make her a great asset to the UMKC Libraries. [Read more about Brenda here.](#)

University of Missouri – St. Louis

UMSL Librarian to Retire in February

Raleigh Muns, UMSL's long-time reference librarian, will retire on Feb. 2, 2023. Raleigh plans to use much of his extra free time performing as a magician and has already begun honing his sleight-of-hand skills and creating his own book-based, specialty tricks.

Raleigh, a UCLA alumnus and US Navy veteran, has been a part of the UMSL community since 1991 and has been an invaluable asset to the library. He has served as coordinator of the Research Consultation program for the past ten years and has been involved in numerous special library projects. In fact, in 1993 he created the library's first website—before the campus even had a web presence! His enthusiasm and commitment to helping others has been a great source of inspiration. Raleigh will be sorely missed by his colleagues and the patrons at UMSL. We wish him all the best in his magical endeavors and thank him for his many years of service.

Christian County Library

Additional \$8,610 Grant Awarded

An 85-inch smart TV, projector and speaker system, boom mic and more are coming to the library thank to another substantial grant from the [Christian County Library Foundation](#). Library staff will soon have the equipment to host outdoor events, guest speakers and gatherings even better than before.

We will also be adding book cart bumpers to the walls in the staff work areas to keep our branches looking pristine. And while not flashy as a smart TV, two more bug ovens will be added to combat the ever present pest damage to materials.

It takes a village, along with help from our support organizations, such as the Christian County Library Foundation, to provide these much-needed resources and services for our community.



Library Card Sign-Up Drive Winners

Throughout September, blank library card applications were delivered to area Christian County school teachers and librarians. Why? Because the schools with the highest percentage of students registered for library cards were awarded money to purchase new library materials, sponsored by the [Christian County Friends of the Library](#). Out of the 28 that participated, which schools had the highest percentage of card sign-ups in 2022? Inman Intermediate at 14.75%, with Chadwick close on their heels, at 13.43%. Congratulations to both schools!



Outreach Manager Scott Villarreal presents checks to (left) Inman Intermediate Librarian D'anne Schnakenberg; and to from Chadwick Principal David Aldrich.

Nixa Area Chamber of Commerce Announces Top 10 Under 40



Nicholas Holladay, Director of Communications & Community Engagement, was selected as one of the Nixa Area Chamber of Commerce's Top 10 Under Forty for 2022 award for achievements, innovations, leadership and involvement in Christian County.

Nicholas was chosen because of his work with community partners in establishing new book pickup and drop-off locations as well as expanding communication strategies to increase library awareness. In addition to this, he also served as the project manager for the construction of two new branch locations in the cities of Clever and Sparta. We all know how integral public libraries are for our communities and this award proves the impact we are making.

Jefferson County Library

New Year, New Truck, New Look at Jefferson County Library

Jefferson County Library is rolling into 2023 with a splash of color. Our truck is now a mobile billboard! We are already getting lots of compliments, honks, and friendly waves as we drive around the county. We hope it will “drive traffic” to our physical locations and online resources.



Joplin Public Library

New Hotspot Program Provides Long-Term Access

Thanks to the Federal Communication Commission’s Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF), Joplin Public Library was awarded funding for 600 mobile hotspots, each with a one-year service agreement. Of the newly added 600 units, 100 are available for short term checkout (21 days) and 500 for long term checkout (one year). The devices are being made available for cardholders who do not have sufficient internet access to meet their educational needs.

The library started circulating the units on Thursday, Dec. 8, and within one week, 126 of the long-term units were checked out. Library administration hopes the remaining hotspots will move just as quickly.

One patron shared on the library’s social media, “I love this so much. Almost cried tears of joy today when I checked out my long-term hotspot. I’m so thankful for our library and the lovely staff.”

Joplin Public Library

HOTSPOTS AVAILABLE

The Federal Communication Commission's Emergency Connectivity Fund has provided funding for 600 mobile hotspots! The check-out period for the short term hotspot device is set at 21-days. The long term hotspot devices may be checked out for up to one year, or until the program ends November 30, 2023.

JOPLINPUBLICLIBRARY.ORG

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Staff Day Provides Training and Team Building Opportunities



On Nov. 11, the Joplin Public Library closed its doors to the public in order to host its annual Staff Day. The day was arranged like a mini conference with special time set aside to focus on teambuilding.

Thirty-eight staff members were in attendance. The day kicked off with breakfast, camp-themed activities, and the State of the Library delivered by Library Director Jeana Gockley. Then staff were free to choose from a series of hour-long breakout sessions. Breakout session topics included internal training on bed bug prevention and the library's new STEM kits, or the opportunity to learn about two community organizations, Food Not Bombs and the Friends of the Joplin Public Library, which complement or support the library.



After attending two breakout sessions, the group met to debrief and eat lunch. For the remainder of the afternoon staff moved off-site to a locally owned virtual reality gaming business, called Pennington Station. Staff were free to explore and play the virtual and digital offerings, chat with each other, color, or play board games. The day culminated with a staff photo and the Employee of the Year announcement.

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Holiday Partnership Showcases Staff Creativity and Library Resources

In partnership with the City of Joplin and Visit Joplin, the library participated in the city's sixth annual Holiday Tree Trail. This month-long special event featured a series of forty decorated trees from area businesses and organizations placed along a portion of the trail at a local park. Trees were lit from Nov. 29 through Dec. 31, and guests could view the trees during park hours. Kickoff activities on Nov. 29 included the lighting of the decorated trees, performances by Karen's Dance Studio students, hot cocoa and cookies, a special StoryWalk® courtesy of the Joplin Public Library, and a visit from Santa.



The Library's "POLAR EXPRESS" inspired tree was very popular. Public Relations/Marketing Assistant Lori Crockett and Technical Services Librarian Alyssa Berry spearheaded the campaign, making it a priority to get all the departments involved in creating the Polar Express-themed tree. They organized the creation of ornaments, engaged children in signing "tickets to ride" the train, and utilized the library's 3D printer and laser engraver to create several one-of-a-kind elements. The finished product not only delighted viewers with its beautiful presentation, but it proved a unique way to showcase services available at the library.

Mid-Continent Public Library

New Mid-Continent Public Library Director Named



During their November 2022 meeting, Mid-Continent Public Library's Board of Trustees approved a contract to hire Aaron B. Mason as the system's new Library Director and CEO. Beginning January 17, 2023, Mason will step into MCPL's head leadership role, overseeing the Library's 33 branches across Jackson, Clay, and Platte Counties, and the nearly 850,000 residents they serve. Mason moves to MCPL from Cleveland Public Library, where he spent nearly two decades of his career, most recently holding the role of Senior Director of Outreach and Programming Services.

In his previous position, Mason worked to expand the reach of Cleveland Public Library's services beyond its 27 branches through innovative initiatives and partnerships. During his tenure with the organization, he held a variety of roles—from

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assisting customers as a branch staff member and business reference librarian, to cataloging materials purchased by the library, to overseeing the entire system's programming and outreach efforts. In all his work, Mason has been particularly passionate about connecting residents to the arts and ensuring equitable access to critical resources and services.

"Throughout my career, my mission has been to remove roadblocks and support the public's right to shape the library experience to their interests. With the help of dedicated librarians, we have built an environment where people of all ages can dream, create, and grow. Continuing this work in support of Mid-Continent Public Library is a dream come true," said Mason. "I am honored to have the opportunity to join this great organization, and I look forward to serving the community and furthering MCPL's mission of 'expanding access to innovation, information, ideas, and inspiration!'"

Mason's career as a librarian has included innumerable accomplishments that benefited library customers and local residents. A few of his more notable achievements include:

Completed construction of four "neighborhood justice hubs" that offer criminal and civil legal services, telehealth support, and virtual access to the Cleveland Housing Court. The project and the library's framing of legal services were instrumental in removing legal obstacles that hinder people's ability to live fulfilling and productive lives.

Developed curriculum and secured funding for 16 learning centers in Cleveland. Since 2012, the centers have expanded their offerings to include K-3 reading instruction, after-school tutoring and food programs, music and therapy, and college preparedness classes.

Published the [*Neighborhood Voices Anthology*](#). *Neighborhood Voices* was a city-wide creative writing project created in response to the COVID stay-at-home order of 2020. The project was designed to engage local writers, allowing residents to virtually connect with neighbors, share stories of their community, and write about what makes their neighborhood unique.

Developed key partnerships with cultural, educational, and governmental institutions that increased customer access to STEM programming, art instruction, and legal services.

Between the years of 2012-2019, received over \$2 million dollars in grant funding in support of Cleveland Public Library programming.

Participated in numerous construction and renovation projects that increased the amount of collaborative workspace at the Cleveland Public Library's downtown campus and 27 neighborhood branches.

"On behalf of the MCPL leadership team and staff, I am delighted to welcome Aaron to Mid-Continent Public Library," said Susan Wray, MCPL Assistant Library Director and Chief Operating Officer. "His experience and knowledge will be a great complement to the organization, and I look forward to working with him."

Wray has been serving as MCPL's Acting Library Director since Director Steven Potter retired in June of this year. Following his departure, the Library's Board of Trustees began their four-month, nationwide search for a new director, resulting in the selection of Mason.

Mason earned his Master of Library and Information Science from Kent State University and his bachelor's degree from Indiana University. Outside of the office, he is a member of the American Library Association and Public Library Association.

Mid-Continent Public Library Announces Plans for Brand-New Branch

On December 13, 2022, Mid-Continent Public Library's Board of Trustees approved plans to build the Library's third branch in the city of Independence. Construction on the new East Independence Branch will begin in 2023, and it is slated to open in 2024. The new facility will be built on a 5.5-acre property off Little Blue Pkwy in Independence, just south of I-70. The land was acquired by the Library earlier in 2022 from LANE4 Property Group in a trade deal involving the old MCPL Red Bridge Branch building in Kansas City.

The East Independence Branch will span approximately 12,500 square feet and will include a community program room, meeting rooms, a dedicated children's area, and outdoor seating. Construction of the new building is part of the Library's ongoing Capital Improvement Plan, which voters endorsed when they passed Proposition L in 2016, increasing the Library's funding for the first time in more than 30 years.



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Following the passage of Prop L, MCPL has fulfilled its promises to voters by renovating or replacing nearly all of its 30+ locations and adding a brand-new branch in Lee's Summit. Design work for the Capital Plan is being completed by Sapp Design Architects and Helix Architecture + Design, with JE Dunn assuming responsibility for construction contractor management.

In addition to all the physical upgrades, the increased funding from Prop L has allowed MCPL to expand branch hours, enhance special services, augment early literacy efforts, and buy more materials. More information about all of the Library's construction projects can be found at mymcpl.org/Community.

Springfield-Greene County Library District

Something About "Beer" Attracted a New Crowd

The Business Connect library team, which provides resources and programs for entrepreneurs and small business owners, tapped into a new group of patrons with its Mother's Brewing Company Tour. The tour guide gave a short history of the downtown Springfield location, its transformation to a brewery, shared how Mother's got its name, and then gave a tour of the facility. The tour ended with a beer tasting.



Mini Tour of the Globe Celebrates International Students

The Library Station played host to a variety of international students from Missouri State University for a 'Mini Tour of the Globe' in October. Students from Brazil, Tunisia, Saudi Arabia, China, Japan, South Korea and Vietnam shared with patrons and each other about their countries and culture, and highlighted fortune telling, string games and dancing.



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Authors and Sasquatch Hook Horror Enthusiasts



The Library’s annual “Oh, The Horror” series featuring authors, horror-themed culture and Sasquatch mystery drew veteran and new horror lit fans through October. New York Times bestselling author, Silvia Moreno-Garcia, captivated an auditorium of fans eager to hear about her bestselling novel, “The Daughter of Doctor Moreau,” her mother’s influence on her love of literature, and the recent influx of horror fiction from authors of color. A free screening of “Young Frankenstein” at a community theater filled all the seats. The Sasquatch of Sequiota Park hooked kids and families who worked at solving a whodunit with weekly clues. Author, Alma Katsu, wrapped up the series with her talk at the Library Center about her latest novel, “The Fervor.” Overall, “Oh, the Horror” programs attracted over 430 patrons throughout the month.

Maker Mom: 6 Hours, 24 Customized Hangers

Kickapoo High School mom Laurie Suter found a unique way to gift student athletes, their coach and her two teen daughters on the women’s basketball team – she customized wooden hangers with the laser engraver at the Maker Space at the Midtown Carnegie Branch. It took six hours to complete 24 personalized hangers.

The Library has expansion plans after receiving a \$13,484 Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grant through the Missouri State Library to fund additional equipment for the growing community of DIYers and makers.

The Maker Space opened in 2020 with partial funding from the Friends of the Library and grants. The project is supported by the Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act as administered by the Missouri State Library, a division of the Office of the Secretary of State.





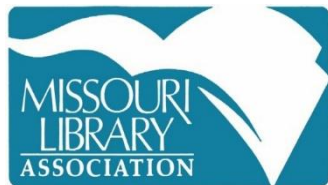
Socktober Tops 800 Socks for Kids in Foster Care

Patrons donated over 800 socks in library branch boxes to support kids and teens in area foster care homes. The Library partnered with Ambassadors for Children. Even the Ash Grove Branch “Flying Needles” knitting group whipped up pairs of socks for the campaign.

FilmStubs Classic Series Nets Director Cameo

The monthly FilmStubs series hosted by The Library at the nonprofit Moxie Cinema featured the cult classic “The Beaver Trilogy” in November, then hosted a Zoom Q&A between the 42 attendees and film Director, Trent Harris.





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