

MO INFO

Newsletter of the Missouri Library Association

March 2023

Volume 54, Number 2

President's Column

Greetings, MLA Members!

Thanks so much to everyone who took part in Library Advocacy Day on February 7! Nearly 100 library workers and supporters gathered in Jefferson City to share stories about the positive impact libraries have had in their communities. And for those who were unable to attend in person, Legislative Chair Cody Croan set up a virtual campaign through ALA's OneClick Politics. An additional 40 supporters sent messages to their state representatives using this online platform. President Elect Kimberly Moeller and I attended the Secretary of State's budget hearing that morning, and we were relieved that Secretary Ashcroft continued to advocate for funding our libraries, even as he engaged in some heated discussion with committee members regarding his proposed rule. As of this writing, an updated version of his proposal is headed to the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules for their consideration.



Members of both MLA and the Missouri Association of School Librarians voted in November to become joint plaintiffs in a case against Missouri Revised Statute 573.550 (SB775), which imposes criminal penalties on librarians for providing materials deemed explicit. By the time this issue of MO-INFO is published, the ACLU will have filed our case in Jackson County.

I spoke with ALA's former Assistant Director for State Advocacy, Megan Cusick, and several other ALA leaders at LibLearnX in New Orleans. They commended us for the record-setting number of public comments that were submitted to Secretary of State Ashcroft's office. LibLearnX sessions that focused on library advocacy and intellectual freedom all made a point of featuring our state's response to the Ashcroft proposal. Other states face similar censorship struggles and book challenges, but we were held up as a beacon; an example of how grassroots efforts can have a tremendous reach. I am so proud of our hard work, and grateful to be involved in this profession that inspires members to make such great efforts on behalf of their communities. Keep on keeping on, everyone. This is shaping up to be a historical year, and the work you do is important.

Our MLA committees are all fully staffed and running strong, but we are still in need of an Archivist. If this is your area of expertise, please reach out! Planning is underway for our Columbia 2023 conference; expect a call for proposals in mid-April. And if you live in the KC area, please consider being a conference coordinator for 2024! You will have supportive past conference coordinators to guide you, so don't be afraid to step up.

As always, feel free to reach out to me with any questions, concerns or ideas that could make our organization stronger. If you'd like to get more involved in MLA, there is a place for you.

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 career path
- ...an employee you find inspirational or whose gifts you wish were more widely known

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

Can't travel? You can still find training and ideas at your fingertips with links to descriptions, availability, and any registration fees. All CDT and subject to change.

[Have a training source you'd like to recommend? Email satterfieldk@mrrl.org](mailto:satterfieldk@mrrl.org)

| Date | Time CT | Event | Sponsor |
|-----------|---------|---|-------------------------------------|
| Mar. 16 | 11 am | Ownership, Licensing, and Library Materials | Metropolitan NY Library Council |
| Mar. 20 | 1:30 pm | Know & Go: Using Open Science to Deal with the Next Health Crisis | Amigos Library Services |
| Mar. 21 | 12 pm | Exhibiting Photographs | Fdn for Advancement in Conservation |
| | 1 pm | 2023 PLA Presidential Candidates Forum | PLA |
| | 1 pm | Spring Into Action: Take Bold Action | People Connect Institute. |
| Mar. 22 | 2 pm | Amigos Community Conversations: Sustaining Open Education Programs | Amigos Library Services |
| | 2 pm | Creating a Restorative Library Culture | OCLC |
| Mar. 23 | 1 pm | Planning for Community Development | Census.gov |
| | 1 pm | The 1950 Census | Census.gov |
| | 3 pm | Using Excel to Manage Your Projects and Budgets | Metropolitan NY Library Council |
| Mar. 24 | 7 pm | Community Engagement & Advocacy in Libraries: How to Thrive in Volatile Times | Catholic University of America |
| Mar. 27 | 1:30 pm | Know & Go: Diversity and Inclusion Activities for Library Meetings | Amigos Library Services |
| | 2 pm | Authority Control: Creating and Maintaining Consistency | Amigos Library Services |
| Mar. 29 | 9 am | All Free for the Finding: Digging Up Family History for Free on the Internet | Indiana State Library |
| | 1 pm | Going Beyond Captions: Creating Accessible Instructional Videos | Niche Academy |
| Mar. 30 | 9 am | Digital Accessibility and Why it Matters | S Central Regional Library Council |
| | 12 pm | DPLA Network Coffee Chat: Becoming Heartland Hub | DPLA |
| | 1 pm | Getting Started with Services to Decarcerated Patrons | PLA |
| | 1 pm | Understanding and Evaluating Governmental Data (U.S. and International) | Data Quality Evaluation |
| Mar. 31 | 9 am | Climate Stories Project, Part 2: Interview Techniques | Metropolitan NY Library Council |
| Apr. 5 | | Virtual SLRLN Tech Expo 2023 | STL Regional Library Network |
| | 9 am | What the Research Says - A Week in the Life of an Academic Video Game Collection | Indiana State Library |
| | 10 am | Library Outreach: Engaging Community Experiences | MALA |
| | 1 pm | BANS, BANS, BANS.... Fighting to Protect Civil Rights in a Time of Political Unrest | PCI Webinars |
| Apr. 6 | 12 pm | Homelessness 101 for Libraries | Libraries Learn |
| Apr. 11 | 2 pm | Under Scrutiny: Helping Staff Feel Safe and Empowered in the Face of Book Challenges | AASL, ALSC, PLA and YALSA |
| Apr. 12 | 9 am | Inspiring Library Growth Through Outreach | Indiana State Library |
| Apr. 13 | 1 pm | Youth Voice and Media Making | YALSA |
| Apr. 18 | 10 am | Youth Services Programming: Clubs for Kids | MALA |
| | 1 pm | Supporting End of Life Care: Death Doulas & Death Cafes | National Library of Medicine |
| Apr. 19 | 12 pm | Shared Goals to Enhance Library Planning | RUSA |
| | 1 pm | One Tool, Many Applications: Collection Assessment for Changing Times | ACRL |
| | 1 pm | Building Community Through Book Clubs | Niche Academy |
| Apr. 26 | 9 am | Make It! Tips on Starting or Expanding Your Library's Makerspace | Indiana State Library |
| | 12 pm | Developing Collections on Gender Relations and Feminism in the Twenty-First Century: Part One | RUSA |
| | 1 pm | Display It! Kickstarting Library Exhibit Programs | Niche Academy |
| | 2 pm | Reconnecting & Restoring Wellness in Self | MALA |
| Apr. 27 | 12 pm | DPLA Network Coffee Chat: Wikimedia Working Group | DPLA |
| May 3 | 12 pm | Developing Collections on Gender Relations and Feminism in the Twenty-First Century: Part Two | RUSA |
| May 10 | | Amigos Member Conference 2023: Libraries Plan to Succeed | Amigos Library Services |
| May 11 | 1 pm | Strategies for Teaching Adult Learners | ACRL |
| May 15-19 | 10 am | Basic SQL | Amigos Library Services |
| May 16 | 1 pm | SimplyE @ Amigos: An Overview and Demonstration | Amigos Library Services |

Meet this issue's Featured Library Employee for the Missouri Library Association, Julie Yockey!

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

My name is Julie Yockey, I am the Director of the Carthage Public Library in Carthage, Missouri.

What originally got you interested in working at a library?

My career began as a middle school librarian over 30 years ago. I loved to teach and loved engaging my students in reading and learning in the library. I wanted to be a positive role model in my students' lives so that they would love reading and would love coming to the library.

What keeps you coming back every day?

Having been given the opportunity to begin my public library career at the age of 55, some might think I was crazy. Why not just retire? My staff will tell you that working with me is like working with someone who has been thrown in a pit of snakes. I wasn't ready then and am not ready now to stop working. My Board in Carthage gave me the opportunity of a lifetime, getting to work in the most beautiful public library I had ever been in. Since day one, every time I pull into town and see that gorgeous copper dome on my library, I thank God for the opportunity to work with and for the best people I know.



What's challenging about your work?

My friends in the public library world know that when I accepted this job it came with tons of maintenance issues. We had a catastrophic water disaster that ruined all but the original library dome built in 1902. From that disaster we went into the COVID pandemic and we built a new makerspace facility. These issues are trying, but it is also very difficult these days to find and retain quality staff when as a non-profit, our revenue stream is stressed.

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

Absolutely, I have definitely gotten out of my comfort zone having to learn how to deal with adults instead of middle schoolers. In fact, middle school kids are way easier to work with than adults! Being a firm believer that the purpose of public libraries is to meet the needs of ALL people in the community, I am fortunate enough to work in a very multiculturally diverse community. I knew nothing about our Hispanic immigrants upon taking this job, and with a Hispanic population of 46% I had to get educated really fast. It has been great creating a program to teach our friends how to read and speak in Spanish and English plus helping them to earn their American citizenship. I am proud of what we have been able to accomplish within the community and for our Hispanic population. I am also so very proud that we have a great early literacy center and our new makerspace building, "A Space to Learn, Space to Grow, Space to Share", paid for in full by a local donor.

Who is one of your mentors?

My Board President Gary Cole believed in me and took this lowly middle school librarian under his wing and taught me about leadership, business, and professionalism in a world so different from public schools. He took a chance hiring me and I will always be thankful.

Is there anything else you'd like to share with us?

Change is hard, but at 55 I took a huge leap in a new profession that I absolutely love in a community that makes me proud, but, I would not have stuck with this if it wasn't for my library director buddies! Jacque Gage, Carrie Cline, and Gina Milburn are the best library mentors and friends ever.

MLA Legislative Committee

Library Advocacy Day



MLA President Elect Moeller and President Bowman representing at Library Advocacy Day!

Library Advocacy Day was a huge success! We had about 90 people join us in Jefferson City to speak with their legislators about the importance of the library in the community and the importance of funding libraries with State Aid. I have had several librarians reach out and let me know of the positive conversations they had with their legislators that day. This is the first step of many for getting to know our legislators and informing them on the positive impacts their library has on their community.

In addition to the in-person event, we held a virtual advocacy campaign for anyone who wanted to participate but who could not participate in-person. We had about 35 people reach out to their legislators through that virtual campaign to ask for full funding of libraries with State Aid.

Everyone should feel proud of the work they have done to advocate for their library and for Missouri libraries. This was no easy task.

While Library Advocacy Day was a huge success, we still have a lot of work ahead of us. The MLA Legislative Committee will continue to watch how HB 12 moves through the House and the Senate to ensure the full amount requested is what is provided to libraries. HB 12 is the bill

that contains all State Aid funding for libraries. In addition, we continue to watch other bills affecting libraries including HB 1159 and HB 1238 bills filed in late February. Please, see the [MLA statement](#) on those bills for more information.

Please, let me know if you have any questions by emailing me at ccroanlibrarian@gmail.com.

Thank you all for your hard work advocating for your library and all Missouri libraries on Library Advocacy Day and every other day. I appreciate you all!

Best Regards,
Cody Croan
MLA Legislative Committee, Chair

MLA - PEER Community of Interest

SAVE THE DATE! Ronald G. Bohley Scholarship Seeks Applicants

Please mark your calendar and tell your colleagues that the Ronald G. Bohley Scholarship will begin accepting applications on May 1.

The Ronald G. Bohley Scholarship is awarded annually to an individual who has demonstrated high scholastic achievement, a commitment to professionalism and library cooperation, a desire to provide quality service to library patrons, and promise toward contributing to Missouri libraries. The Scholarship is awarded to an individual who is currently accepted into or attending an ALA-accredited MLS/MLIS program.

Qualified applicants are interviewed by members of the MLA's Professionalism, Education, Employment, and Recruitment (PEER) Community of Interest. Recommendations are then presented to the MLA Board and Awards Committee for final approval.

Applications must be sent or postmarked between May 1 and June 30 of each year, and must be submitted/postmarked before midnight on June 30. To learn more or to apply (beginning May 1), please visit: <http://molib.org/awards/scholarships/ronald-g-bohley-scholarship/>

Creating a Culture of Caring: Missouri Library Association 2023

In 2023, we celebrate the many ways libraries care for their communities. Consider this conference in the heart of Missouri a love letter to libraries and a celebration of all you do for the communities you serve!

Hotel and Conference Information

Standard Room Rates: \$130 per night
 Holiday Inn Executive Center-Columbia Mall
 2200 Interstate 70 Dr SW, Columbia, MO 65203
Early Bird Conference Registration: \$120 per attendee

Call for Proposals Opens April 15, 2023!

Be thinking about how your library makes a difference for your local community and for the greater region where you live. Here are a few frameworks you can use to demonstrate how care goes into everything you do!

Advancement: Sharing, nurturing, and preserving the body of human knowledge while improving the economic, medical, and intellectual health of a community.

Belonging: Cultivating diversity, equity, and inclusivity through collections, programming, and employment practices.

Civic Engagement: Supporting the foundations of democracy such as intellectual freedom, information literacy, and voting rights with policies and/or programming.

Empowerment: Supporting students, patrons, and other stakeholders with tools to further their education and research with access to information and literacy programming.

Resilience: Building positive relationships/partnerships with individuals and outside organizations to strengthen the connections and support networks within your community.

Sustainability: Developing sustainable, environmentally sound business practices and programming for the ecological health of your community.

Well-being: Fostering lifelong learning and creative expression opportunities for patrons and students of all ages. Utilizing people first workplace policies to support and retain excellent staff.



Highlights of our upcoming celebration include:

- An exciting opening keynote with [ALA President, Emily Drabinski!](#)
- The Missouri Literary Award Author Presentation!
- The MLA Awards Gala featuring bluegrass band [Ironweed!](#)
- Thursday night [Speakeasy Pub Crawl!](#)

Any questions?

Contact your conference coordinators, Abbey Rimel and Jenny France Thompson, at conference@molib.org



St. Louis Regional Library Network

Join us via Zoom to learn new skills, hear about the use of technology in libraries of all types and connect with colleagues from the St. Louis area and beyond. (*Detailed agenda with session descriptions coming soon to the [SLRLN website](#)*).

Wednesday, April 5th, 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Registration

\$25 for Members

\$40 for Non-Members

\$10 for Students

Registration deadline is **Monday, April 3rd at 5:00 p.m.**

[Click here to register!](#)

Session recordings will be available for registrant viewing for 30 days after the Tech Expo.

There are no refunds for this event.

Please pay online via PayPal* at check out or send a check to our office:

SLRLN
1190 Meramec Station Rd.
Suite 207
Ballwin, MO 63021

Questions: SLRLN@Amigos.org



Welcome! Amigos Cataloging & Metadata Trainer Andrea Cox

[Amigos welcomes Andrea Cox](#) as the newest addition to the team, stepping into the position of Cataloging and Metadata Trainer. Andrea was asked to share a little about herself with Amigos members and here is what she replied.

Andrea has held various positions in public and special libraries, among those working as a cataloger and Government Documents Librarian. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Geography from Indiana University - Bloomington and a Master of Science degree in Information Science from Florida State University. She's excited to combine her passion for cataloging and metadata with training in her new position at Amigos. In her free time, she enjoys baking, reading, and snorkeling.

Registration Open and Proposals Due Soon for the May 10 Amigos Member Conference!

Whether choosing a new technology, developing crisis communications, filling an open position, or implementing a new service, careful planning and preparation leads to success. This year's Member Conference will highlight Amigos member libraries' latest successes and the innovative approaches that led to their implementation.

[Register now](#) to attend the "Amigos Member Conference 2023: Libraries Plan to Succeed" on May 10, 2023.

[Submit a presentation proposal](#) about your planning and share the news of your success with other Amigos members at this once-a-year event! Proposals are being accepted through March 25. Possible session topics include: choosing new programs and services; technology decisions and implementations; developing emergency and crisis response plans; staffing and succession planning; new approaches to community engagement; and strategic planning.

Missed "Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion in Cataloging and Technical Services"? Register now for the recordings!

If you missed the February 8 online conference, "Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion in Cataloging and Technical Services" live, there's still a chance to catch up on the sessions by [registering for the recordings](#). The conference began with a grounding opening keynote by Amber Billey, Systems and Metadata Librarian at Bard College in New York, followed by twelve sessions throughout the day.

Member Discount News

Amigos Members Save Extra 10% or More on Bloomsbury One-Time Purchases

Bloomsbury is offering Amigos members the chance to save an extra 10% or more on the one-time purchase of several Bloomsbury digital resources. Purchasers can save an extra 5% through May 31, 2023. [View article](#) for eligible products for this promotion.

New Discount Offer for Amigos Members on Ambrose Video Publishing

Ambrose Video Publishing is now offering additional [special discounts](#) to Amigos Library Services members to start 2023 and to announce their re-designed website. Free trials and per-video pricing are available.

Special Amigos Member Pricing Available for Films on Demand - Nursing

New Subscriptions to Infobase's Nursing: Current Concepts and Practices receive a [25% discount](#) when purchased by March 31. This tightly curated database helps nursing students excel in their studies, pass licensure exams, and prepare for long-term job success.

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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:

- [Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion in Cataloging and Technical Services](#)
- [The Library Technology Roadmap](#)
- [Materials on the Move: Strategies for Delivery, Distribution, and Storage](#)
- [Amigos Member Conference 2022: Building the New Library Team](#)

Continuing Education Services Schedule

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 CDT. [Register today!](#)

- [Basic SQL](#) May 15-19, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.
- [SimplyE @ Amigos: An Overview and Demonstration](#) May 16, 1-2 p.m.
- [Know & Go: Using Open Science to Deal with the Next Health Crisis](#) March 20, 1:30-2:30 p.m.
- [Know & Go: Diversity and Inclusion Activities for Library Meetings](#) March 27, 1:30-2:30 p.m.
- [Authority Control: Creating and Maintaining Consistency](#) March 27, 2- 4 p.m.

Classes are always being added so be sure to check out the full [course schedule!](#)

Missouri Evergreen

St. Joseph Public Library Will Be the 61st Member of Missouri Evergreen



On May 11, 2023, the St. Joseph Public Library will go live as the sixty-first member library of Missouri Evergreen.

On February 2, four staff members of the St. Joseph Public Library visited its migration partner library, Scenic Regional Library, for a tour of Scenic's ILL room and an introduction to Missouri Evergreen. Every library that joins the consortium has a library of similar size assigned to it to help with the transition from its current ILS to the Evergreen ILS. Staff from the mentor library work with the mentee library during the migration process and are present on the go live date. In addition, Missouri Evergreen has a part-time Migration Specialist to help the incoming library with mapping and other decisions.

Pictured at right:

Missouri Evergreen's full-time cataloger, Liz; four St. Joseph Public Library staff members, Mary Beth, Sarah, Maryann, Bethany; Scenic Regional Library staff, Ruth, Paul, Diane (behind the camera)



MOBIUS

Donna Bacon Elected to Project ReShare Steering Committee

Donna Bacon, MOBIUS Executive Director, has been elected to the Project ReShare Steering Committee. Project ReShare is an open-source, scalable, and user focused resource sharing platform that aims, “to break down the barriers and silos associated with commercial platforms and replace them with an inclusive, community-owned ecosystem made up of libraries, consortia, software developers, and open source advocates.” As a member of the Steering Committee Donna will assist with providing oversight of the ReShare community and setting strategic priorities for the platforms development.

MOBIUS has been active in the ReShare Community since 2021 and will be migrating from Innovative Interfaces’ INN-Reach platform to ReShare Returnables as its primary resource sharing system in the Spring of 2024.

2023 MOBIUS Annual Conference to be Held in St. Louis

MOBIUS is excited to announce that the 2023 MOBIUS Annual Conference will be held in St. Louis, MO on June 5-7, 2023 at the Chesterfield Doubletree Hotel. This year’s conference theme is “Blazing the Trail” and will feature presentations, panel discussions, and lightening rounds on topics of interest to the library community and a full slate of exhibitors. The call for proposals is currently open and more information can be found at <https://2023conf.mobiusconsortium.org/>

The conference is once again free to Missouri library employees thanks to a LSTA grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services and a generous donation from EBSCO Information Services.

Privacy & Learning Analytics: A Data Ethics Workshop for Library Staff - April 11, 2023

MLA and MOBIUS are pleased to host an in-person workshop for academic libraries on Privacy and Learning Analytics on April 11, 2023 from 1:00-4:00 p.m. at the Kansas City Public Library Plaza Branch, Lower-Level Cohen Center.

This event will be facilitated by Lisa Janicke Hinchliffe, Professor & Coordinator for Research and Teaching Professional Development, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign & PI, Prioritizing Privacy.

Libraries are increasingly engaging with learning analytics at their institutions. This workshop will guide participants in exploring learning analytics, privacy theory, privacy-by-design principles, and much more through exercises from the “Privacy Sourcebook” that was created by Lisa Janicke Hinchliffe and Kyle Jones. The “Privacy Sourcebook” enables librarians to document their thinking, reflect on their learning, and guide their practice in implementation. The workshop prepares librarians to engage in campus dialogues and initiatives related to learning analysis and parallel assessment and evaluation practices. The workshop is an offering of Prioritizing Privacy, which is supported by an IMLS National Leadership Grant (<https://prioritizingprivacy.org/>).

Advance registration is required and space is limited to 25 attendees currently working in an academic library. To ensure that as many institutions as possible are able to participate, registration will initially be limited to one attendee per institution. Visit our registration page to learn more - <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/privacy-learning-analytics-a-data-ethics-workshop-for-library-staff-tickets-541831050257>



A.T. Still University



Opening Doors: Contemporary African American Academic Surgeons

written by Debra Loguda Summers

The A.T. Still Memorial Library on the Missouri campus will host the National Library of Medicine exhibit “Opening Doors: Contemporary African American Academic Surgeons” from March 13 – April 21, 2023. The traveling banner exhibit tells the stories of pioneering African American surgeons and educators who exemplify excellence in their fields and work to educate and mentor younger physicians and surgeons.

The National Library of Medicine produced this exhibit and companion website:

www.nlm.nih.gov/exhibition/aframsurgeons/index.html

University of Missouri - Columbia



Mara Inge Appointed Electronic Resources and Discovery Librarian

The University of Missouri Libraries are pleased to announce that Mara Inge has been hired as the electronic resources and discovery librarian. Mara has a Master of Library and Information Science and a Bachelor of Arts in art history and archaeology from the University of Missouri. She has worked as a senior library information specialist at the MU Engineering Library and Technology Commons since 2018. Before that, Mara was a document control coordinator at the MU Research Reactor.

Concannon Receives National Library Award for “Prices and Wages by the Decade”

Marie Concannon, head of government information for the University of Missouri Libraries, has been awarded the 2023 NewsBank/Readex/GODORT/ALA Catharine J. Reynolds Award from the Government Documents Round Table of the American Library Association. This award provides funding for research that contributes to the field of documents librarianship. The prize will be used to fund a student position in the library’s Government Information department to help expand the “Prices and Wages by Decade” web guide.

GODORT stated, “The Awards Committee is excited and impressed with your website and research project *Prices and Wages by Decade*, and acknowledges the immense value it offers to researchers everywhere.”

The “Prices and Wages by Decade” guide points to retail prices and average wages in primary source materials, mainly government documents. The research guide has found fans across campus, the state, and the world since Concannon created it in 2012.

Concannon has received two previous awards for the “Prices and Wages by Decade” guide from the Reference and User Services division of ALA.



University of Missouri – Kansas City

Walking Study Stations Are Now Available!

The UMKC Health Sciences Library now has two walkstations available in the new Active Study Room. Read more on [the University Libraries blog](#).



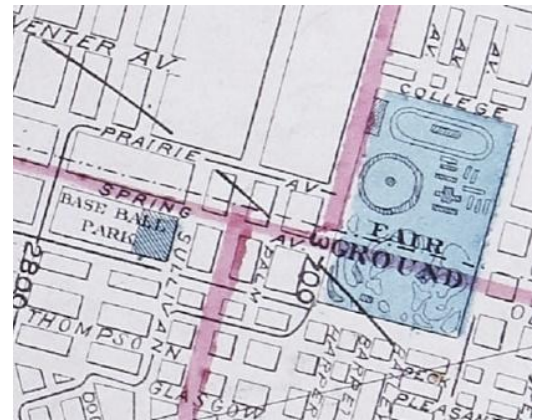
Missouri Historical Society

The Digitizing Rare St. Louis Atlases Project

The Missouri Historical Society library's plat books (land ownership map volumes) are among the most heavily used books in the library – they serve as snapshots of who owned what property in a particular year. We're especially strong in atlases depicting St. Louis city and/or county. Thanks to a generous grant from the Missouri State Library, we were able to digitize 13 of these atlases – a total of over 7700 map pages.

We selected atlases and maps that had not been digitized yet, to complement atlases that have already been digitized made freely available on [Missouri Digital Heritage](#). Most of the atlases that we digitized in this project are scarce, with no other known copy.

Emily Jaycox, MHS Head Librarian and project director for The Digitizing Rare St. Louis Atlases Project is working with UM-St. Louis Graduate Intern Levi Cullifer to publicize the collection. This [LibGuide](#) is one place you can learn about the collection and read some stories that are being discovered in the maps.



This 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.

Daniel Boone Regional Library

Local Students Speak About the Freedom to Read



On Wednesday, February 1, Columbia Public Library hosted a panel event titled, “The Right to Read: Resisting Censorship to Support our Communities.” This timely event focused on the importance of diverse representation in literature and how limiting access to information leads to the censorship of certain voices and perspectives, which may infringe on civil liberties and first amendment rights. Approximately 120 people attended.

The panel, moderated by David Lile, allowed attendees to explore this issue's national context, the history of book challenges and how restrictions on reading impact us on the local level. Panelists included representatives of Columbia Public Schools, the Daniel Boone Regional Library, the University of Missouri College of Education and Human Development and local youth.

Student panelists were Mari Hagen and Kennedy Lucas of Hickman High School and Archer Dudenhoffer of Fayette High School. MLA President Otter Bowman, President-Elect Kimberly Moeller and MLA Board Member Rachelle Brandel attended to show support.



Jefferson County Library Opens Cedar Hill Location

The Jefferson County Library District opened the doors to its newest location on February 20.

Located in Cedar Hill, the satellite library offers a range of materials, as well as public computers, a dedicated children’s area, and even a drive-through window to pick up holds.



Said Library Director Tony Benningfield, “We wanted to better serve the Northwest District and Cedar Hill was the perfect location for us. We thought that we should bring the library into the community here.”

Satellite supervisor Karen Jones, who has worked at the Jefferson County Library for over 20 years, will lead a team of four staff, both veteran and new. They have been training at the library’s Northwest Branch in anticipation of the new location.

“For over two years now, creating this new library location has been a major priority for the Jefferson County Library District,” said Benningfield, “and we are making every effort to provide the best service, convenient visiting options, internet access, and quality books and databases to Cedar Hill and the surrounding areas.”



Joplin Public Library

Black History Fair Features KC Buffalo Soldier Chapter

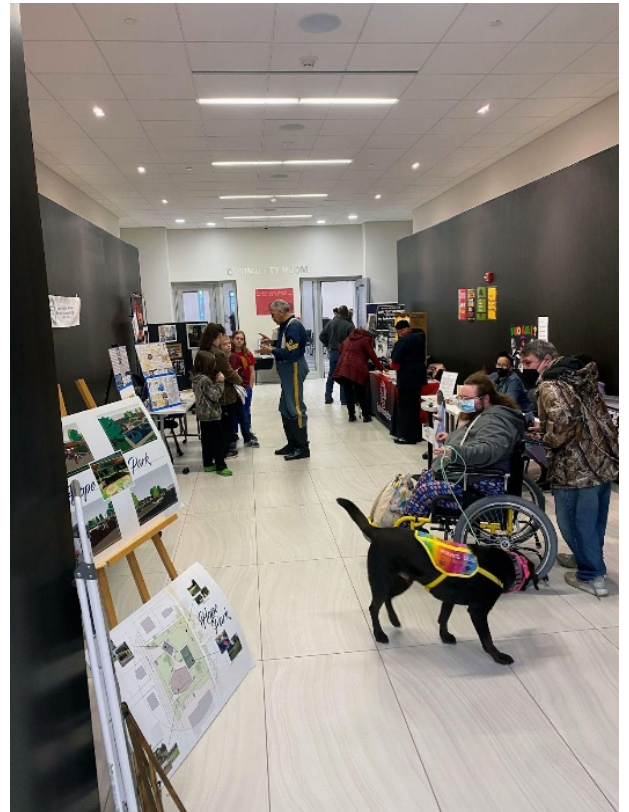


Joplin Public Library hosted its third annual Black History Fair on Saturday, Feb. 11. This year's all-ages event expanded on the format of previous years by offering new and exciting opportunities for the Joplin community. This year, the library hosted the Alexander/Madison Chapter of the Greater Kansas City Buffalo Soldiers. Certified storytellers George Pettigrew, John "JR" Bruce, and Donna Madison informed audiences of the history of Buffalo Soldiers and Missouri's role in that history.

During the living history presentation, the storytellers in period dress told stories of Cathay Williams, the only known woman to serve in the Buffalo Soldiers, as well as Private Isaac Johnson. Storyteller George Pettigrew shared about the evolution of Black soldiers, including what led formerly enslaved individuals to join the United States Army after slavery ended. Pettigrew shared with the audience that, though the presentation was taking place during Black History Month, the stories of the Buffalo Soldiers are part of American history. The presentation, which was supported by the State Historical Society of Missouri, concluded with a Q&A period with the audience.

After the presentation, attendees visited informational booths hosted by community members and organizations, including a representative from the George Washington Carver National Monument, the Langston Hughes Cultural Society, the Emancipation Committee, and more. The booths included information on African American health care pioneers, Joplin-born Langston Hughes, student-made art, sit-ins, and more.

"There is so much rich history and community in the Black community in Joplin and in Missouri, and we are thankful to our partner organizations for their interest in bringing pieces of that history and community building to the Joplin Public Library," said Christina Matekel-Gibson, Children's Librarian and co-coordinator of the fair.



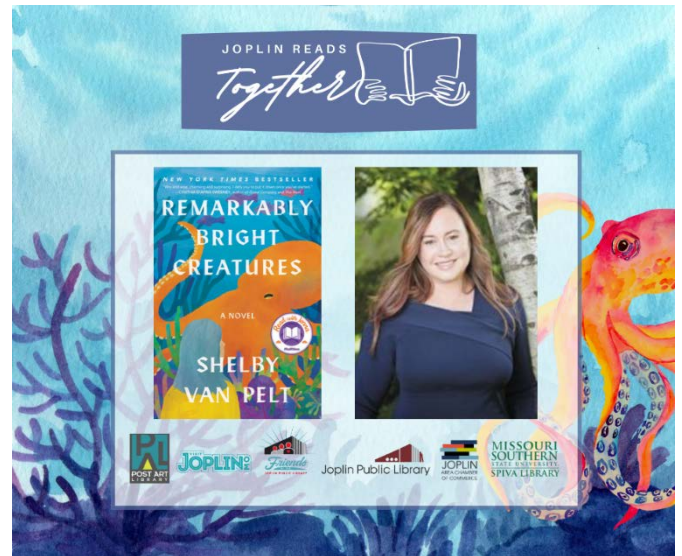
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Library Launches Community Read Event

Joplin Public Library has launched Joplin Reads Together, its first Community Read. Joplin Reads Together is a community focused, month-long event centered upon the 2023 book choice, *Remarkably Bright Creatures*, and will include accompanying programs during the month of April, ending with a visit from author Shelby Van Pelt.

Joplin Reads Together aims to increase awareness of the library and its services, provide a shared reading-related experience, and connect the community. Upon announcing the new program in early January, before the title of the book was unveiled, 57 individuals registered as part of the library's "be the first to find out" promotional campaign. After the title of the book was announced on Jan. 31, 100 new registrations were quickly logged on Beanstack, the Library's reading challenge software.

The general feedback received about the book selection has been outstandingly positive, with interest from those that have already read the book and those that are excited to read it. *Remarkably Bright Creatures* is a debut novel, as well as a New York Times best seller, a Read with Jenna pick, and a nominee for two Goodreads Choice Awards in 2022. Those interested in joining Joplin Reads Together can participate by reading the book, tracking their progress electronically at joplinpubliclibrary.org/joplinreadstogether/, and attending programs offered throughout the month of April.



The newly launched program includes Post Art Library, Missouri Southern State University Spiva Library, Joplin Area Chamber of Commerce, Joplin Convention and Visitors Bureau, and Friends of the Joplin Public Library as organizational partners.

Friends of the Library Provide Browsing Baskets & Program Funding

Since their membership drive kicked off in June 2022, the Friends of the Joplin Public Library have been working hard to not only find new members, but also to provide volunteer and financial support to the library. Their first two financial contributions include purchasing browsing baskets and committing funding to support two group reading events at the library.



Thanks to funds raised as part of their November's Giving Tuesday campaign, the Friends purchased 24 browsing baskets and two mini-shopping carts for the library. The brightly colored FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY-branded baskets and easy-to-push shopping carts allow users to more easily gather and carry their materials.

Children especially love the baskets, and parents have commented to staff about how grateful they are for them.

In addition to the handy baskets and carts, the group also approved financial support for two library programs that focus on group reading - a children's Chapter Book Club and the library's community read program, Joplin Reads Together.

With the Friends' help, the Chapter Book Club, which hosts children in grades two through five on a bi-monthly basis, will now be able to provide copies of the selected book for each participant. During previously offered programs, the library staff member leading the program read the story aloud to the group, but now, thanks to a donation of \$1,000 from the Friends, each member of the book club will get their own copy to read, and when finished, add to their personal library. This will allow the agenda of the weekly meetings to be adjusted and the group will be able to focus on other fun activities related to the book. The funds will be used to provide books at all of the library's 2023 Chapter Book Club programs.

Turning their focus to an adult audience, the Friends opted to provide funding to support Joplin Reads Together, the library's community read event that is scheduled for April. As an organizational partner the Friends voted to show their support by providing \$2,500: half the cost of Joplin Reads Together featured author Shelby Van Pelt's visit.

Kirkwood Public Library

Kirkwood Public Library Book Return Takes on a Life of Its Own

The book return at Kirkwood Public Library used to be a plain slot for people to dutifully return their materials. That was before artist and library associate Gypsy Star had a scary vision and turned the slot into a witch's mouth to haunt our patrons in October. Then the book return morphed into the dragon that we used with our Winter Reading theme "Fire Up Your Imagination." No telling what might happen now that Winter Reading is over.

Kirkwood Public Library is fortunate to have many staff members with ideas. [Watch Gypsy at work in this Instagram reel.](#)



Mid-Continent Public Library

MCPL Announces Headlining Authors for 2023 'Romance GenreCon'

In the spirit of Valentine's Day, Mid-Continent Public Library announced on February 14 that its annual Romance GenreCon convention for romance readers and writers will return August 3-5, 2023, to its Woodneath Library Center in Kansas City. The free, three-day convention will draw romance fans and authors from across the country for presentations and workshops dedicated to the creation and enjoyment of the continually top-selling genre.



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Headlining this year's convention will be a variety of bestselling and award-winning romance authors, including:

- **Lyssa Kay Adams**, Acclaimed contemporary romance author
- **K.M. Jackson**, *USA Today* bestselling author of contemporary romance whose work has been recognized by *Oprah Magazine*, ShondaLand, and NPR
- **Jayci Lee**, acclaimed author of contemporary romantic comedies
- **Janna MacGregor**, Kansas City resident, attorney, and acclaimed author of historical (Regency) romance
- **Cathy Maxwell**, *New York Times* and *USA Today* bestselling author of historical romance
- **Abigail Owen**, award-winning author of paranormal romance
- **Nisha Sharma**, critically acclaimed author of contemporary romance
- **Mia Sosa**, award-winning and *USA Today* bestselling author of contemporary romance
- **Julie Tieu**, acclaimed author of contemporary romance

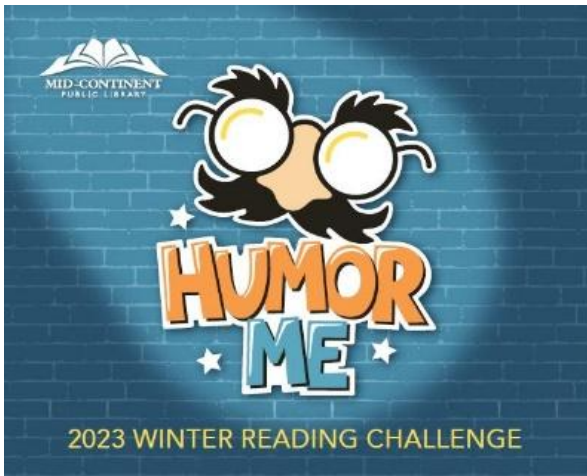
Thursday and Friday (August 3 and 4) of GenreCon will be the Romance Writers Conference, with experienced romance authors and industry professionals leading classes on navigating the romance writing and publishing process. Friday and Saturday (August 4 and 5) will be all about the fans during the Romance Readers Conference. Passion-loving readers will have the opportunity to meet their favorite authors and participate in a range of activities, including games, crafts, and cosplay.

To learn more about Romance GenreCon, visit mymcpl.org/Romance. Registration for the event will open in May on this page, and more details about the full schedule of the convention will be released then as well.



Mia Sosa, USA Today bestselling author, will speak at this year's Romance GenreCon.

Humor Me! MCPL Launches Annual Winter Reading Challenge



Time to LOL! Mid-Continent Public Library's Winter Reading Challenge returned January 15, and this year's theme was "Humor Me," offering participants a chance to tickle their funny bones as they read five books by March 15. The annual program encourages adults to reconnect with the practice of leisure reading, and participants who read five titles (comedy or any other genre!) between January 15 and March 15 will earn a commemorative coffee mug as well as the chance to win a B&B Theatres Gold Card, good for one film a day for a year.

Although participants, who must be 18 or older, don't have to read within the theme, Library staff compiled a long list of suggested reads with a wide variety of comedic influence for those who love to laugh—from dry and dark humor, to satire, to slapstick and comedy of errors. **As of mid-February, nearly 4,400 adults had signed up for MCPL's Winter Reading Challenge, and more than 1,200 had completed the program.**

In keeping with the theme, the Library also partnered with B&B Theatres to host a free "Humor Me Film Series." Attendees could visit one of three B&B Theatres locations in January and February to enjoy free comedy screenings of the movies *Anchorman*, *Monty Python and the Holy Grail*, and *Sleepless in Seattle*. Participants also had the opportunity to enhance their Challenge experience by attending in-person books groups and events, as well as virtual programs through the Library's [Winter Reading Challenge Facebook page](#).

For more information about MCPL's Winter Reading Challenge, including a full list of rules, more details about the prize, and the suggested reading list compiled by MCPL staff, visit mymcpl.org/WinterReading.



Adults who read five books or more before March 15th earned a coffee mug.

Springfield-Greene County Library District

Ernie Bedell of Black Musical Family Shares His Stories



Author and musician Ernie Bedell had a great time visiting with fans both new and old during his book signing at the Midtown Carnegie Branch in January. Many came equipped with their own copies of his book, “Generation B Music & Melodies.” The story of the Bedells, a Black musical family from Springfield, stretches back more than a century. For five generations they have written, performed and sold recordings throughout Southwest Missouri and the United States.



Author David Harrison Turns Pen on Himself, His Story

60 Patrons, friends and family, braved a cold January night to see David Harrison speak about his new memoir, “This Life: an Autobiography.” He shared insight into what it takes to be a writer, including patience: His first book, “The Boy with a Drum,” had been turned down 67 times by publishers before finally being published. The book has since sold over 2 million copies.

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Celebrate Family Stories Rewards Winter Reading

Over 100 kids and teens participated in, and 42 completed, our Celebrate Family Stories challenge. Top activities were telling the stories of our days, looking at baby pictures and singing karaoke. Happy winner, Abigail Martin, enjoyed her prize basket of books and cozy goodies. All youth who completed earned a new book bag.



Business Connect Trains Staffers to be Business Experts

Twenty library staff have completed the new Business Connector program, identifying them as trained in helping business owners and entrepreneurs across the service area. Midtown Carnegie Branch Reference Manager, Krystal Smith, was the first staffer to achieve Gold Level. In addition to her work in Reference, Krystal is the Library's Nonprofit and Funding Librarian, helping nonprofits find funding for their organizations. She also manages the "Grow With Google" scholarship program for job seekers.

The Business Connect training program is a three-level program. Each training level requires staff to be involved in at least five hours of training and engagement with the business community. Each opportunity helps a staff member to understand more about the information needs of business patrons, become familiar with the many organizations that serve Greene County's business community, begin to make personal connections in the business community and to work towards becoming an expert on the library's own resources for business.

The Business Connect training program moves the library closer to a vision where a member of the community is able to walk into any Springfield-Greene County Library branch and get connected with the specific library and community resources that will help them start or grow their business. To learn more about what the Springfield-Greene County Library offers for businesses, visit <http://www.thelibrary.org/business>.



Fix-It Fair Offers Their Brokens New Life

40 individuals attended the January Fix-It Fair, bringing 43 items for repair including clothing, bikes, clocks, heaters, blenders, vacuums and lots of lamps.

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Theater, Storytimes Top Black History Month Observance



The Library hosted a range of programs to inspire and educate families during Black History Month. In early February, children ages four to ten and caregivers were treated to a performance by the Bright Star Touring Theatre, “African Folk Tales,” at The Fairbanks. Throughout February, Youth Services staff offered Black Brilliance Storytimes — special Racing to Read Storytimes that focus on books by Black authors and illustrators as part of the African American Read-In.



Winter Reading Challenge Attracts 600-plus So Far

Maybe it was the challenge of reading at least five books in two months, or the promise of a gleaming, green limited-edition mug designed by Art Director Danny Dye. Whatever it was, the 2023 Winter Reading Challenge had 621 adult participants and 184 adults have completed the challenge and claimed their mugs. The challenge ended on February 28.

Snow or No Snow, Seed Library Lures Dreamers

The Heirloom Seed Library opened as promised on Feb. 1 at library branches this year. Despite the snow pack outside, garden dreamers like this couple at the Schweitzer Brentwood Branch, came inside to check out the early-planting packets. The Library Station and Midtown Carnegie Branch have hosted the heirloom seed displays in past years.

The success and popularity of the program enabled staff to expand offerings to the Library Center, Republic Branch and Mobile Library. Patrons with a valid library card can check out up to four packets at a time of vegetable, flowers, herbs and native plants.

Patrons and staff can learn more about the program at <http://www.thelibrary.org/seedlibrary>.



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Hear Kwame Alexander – Live, at the Springfield Art Museum



Photo by Portia Higgins

Kwame Alexander, the award-winning young adult author of 36 books including “Crossover,” will speak to students, adults and educators at two events on Thursday, April 27, at the Springfield Art Museum, 1111 E. Brookside Drive.

From 7:00-8:00 p.m. during a free event in the auditorium, he will discuss his works and young adult literature. Books will be available for purchase and signing.

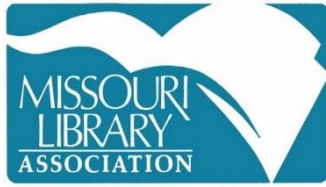
From 3:30-5:00 p.m. in the community room, Alexander will give a workshop for K-12 teachers on teaching writing to youth. Registration and fee required; call Rhonda Hittenberger Ortiz, Instructional Specialist, MSU Agency for Teaching, Leading and Learning, at (417)836-4090.

In addition to “Crossover,” a verse novel that won the 2015 Newbery Award, Alexander is the number one New York Times Bestselling author of books including, “The Door of No Return,” “An American Story,” and the Caldecott Medal and Newbery Honor-winning picture book, “The Undefeated,” illustrated by Kadir Nelson.

A regular contributor to NPR’s Morning Edition, Alexander is the recipient of the Lee Bennett Hopkins Poetry Award and The Coretta Scott King Author Honor.

Kwame Alexander’s presentations are sponsored through a partnership of the Springfield Art Museum, MSU Agency for Teaching, Leading, and Learning, and the African American Read-In, a collaborative of the MSU Libraries, the Springfield-Greene County Library District, Drury University, Springfield Public Schools; and the Springfield NAACP.

The author’s presentations are supported in part 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.



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