

MO INFO

Newsletter of the Missouri Library Association

May 2023

Volume 54, Number 3

President's Message



Greetings, MLA Members!

As you know by now, the Missouri legislature has restored state aid to public libraries! I am proud of our efforts and so grateful for each of you for sharing your voices. You have reached out to legislators and spoken with patrons, friends, and family members to explain what the library means to your communities. You have advocated unceasingly for our profession. This shouldn't be necessary, but for right now, it is.

Cody Croan and the Legislative Committee have been wildly busy, keeping us informed about state aid funding as it evolves, following the multitude of bills of concern to libraries, and speaking to the impracticalities and concerns of [Ashcroft's Rule](#). If you haven't checked the "[MLA in the News](#)" section of our website recently (listed in the Advocacy tile near the bottom of the home page), please do that soon.

The unprecedented amount of national media coverage we've received has led to unexpected gifts. There have been literal gifts in the form of donations to our general fund (\$1075 since March 29), Legislative Fund (\$95) and Intellectual Freedom Committee (\$100). Library advocates, workers, retirees, and volunteers from across the U.S. have sent cards and words of encouragement and thanks, with messages such as "Don't give up. Libraries are a cornerstone of our society. The nation is rooting for you." Most importantly, the media coverage has motivated many of our Missouri library users to reach out to their representatives. No one has ignored this devastating act by our Missouri House. This is a challenging time for libraries across our country. But the majority of Americans, as well as the majority of Missourians, are with us.

There is much going on in our organization beyond the legislative fight:

- The first grant recipients of the [Access and Innovation funds](#) have been notified.
- The new Recruitment and Retention Task Force is developing plans and gearing up to apply for federal grants.
- MACRL has a spring webinar planned for May 17
- YSCI held their annual Spring Training on April 28.
- Our new public facing [website](#) is live, with work still continuing on the members-only content.
- MLA's [Twitter account](#) has gone from averaging 2K views per month to 1.2 million in just the first three weeks of April (!!!), thanks to a spectacular thread written by Social Media Chair Brian McMann that was picked up by (yes) Levar Burton.

The [2023 Annual Conference](#) in Columbia is going to be STELLAR. Abbey Rimel, Jennifer France, and their team could not have chosen a better time to celebrate a culture of care. Conferences can be rejuvenating during even the blandest of years. Imagine how important it will be to connect with fellow intellectual freedom warriors, to grow from shared experience and to celebrate the profession during this historic time. Put October 4-6 on your calendars now and check this issue for more details.

We have one coordinator lined up for our KC area conference. Stephanie Shade from Mid-Continent Public Library is onboard to share her skills so that we can have the opportunity to get together in 2024. Do you live in KC? We need *you* to make this happen. Past conference chairs are available for support.

As always, thanks for all you do for Missouri libraries! And if you have questions, concerns, or would like to be more involved in this fantastic organization, please reach out.

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

Training and ideas are available each month, as close as your keyboard. Find links here to descriptions 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 |
|-------------|----------|---|---|
| May 16 | 2 pm | Introduction to Reference Services 1: Core Reference Skills | Amigos Library Services |
| May 17 | 9 am | What Candidates Want: Revamping your Recruitment | Indiana State Library |
| | 10 am | NCompass Live: Read the Rainbow: Serving the LGBTQ+ Community in Your Library | Nebraska Library Commission |
| | 11 am | Ways to Use the Newly Revised ALA Core Competencies of Librarianship | ALA |
| | 12 pm | Role of Rural Libraries in Promoting Digital Health Literacy | Colorado State Library |
| | 1 pm | Disability Accommodations in Libraries | Niche Academy |
| | 1 pm | Level-Up Your Professional Presence and Communication | Speakerpreneur |
| | 3 pm | Creating and Nurturing Partnerships for Equity, Diversity, Inclusion & Social Justice | ACRL |
| May 18 | 1 pm | Secrets of the Super Searchers II - Statistics (Rescheduled) | FDLP |
| | 1 pm | 15 Minutes to Mastery: Discover Spanish Forms within Gale LegalForms | Gale |
| | 1 pm | Inclusive Sensory-Rich Nature Play for Children's 7 Senses | Early Childhood Investigations |
| | 2 pm | Introduction to Reference Services 2: The Reference Collection | Amigos Library Services |
| | 2 pm | Library Safety and Security: A Holistic Approach | OCLC |
| May 22 | 1:30 pm | Know & Go: Planned Abandonment & Libraries | Amigos Library Services |
| | 2 pm | Food Programming in Libraries: An Introduction | Montana State Library |
| | 3 pm | Time Management: How to Get Everything...Err, Most Things Done | GovLoop |
| May 23 | 11 am | DEI and Your Board: Why Boards Need to Act Now! | Nonprofit Learning Lab |
| | 1 pm | Event Preparedness: Active Shooters and Hostile Activity at Your Venues | Lyrasis |
| | 2 pm | Introduction to Reference Services 3: Reference Resources | Amigos Library Services |
| May 23 & 25 | 3 pm | A Tale of Two Archives: Digital Records Management in Oregon and Wyoming | Nat'l Historical Pubs & Records Comm., WY & OR State Archives |
| May 24 | 10 am | NCompass Live: La Biblioteca Es Para Ti - Building Community Relationships in a Different Language | Nebraska Library Commission |
| | 12 pm | Using Technology to Combat Fake News: The Impact of Misinformation on Chronic Condition Self-Management Behaviors | National Library of Medicine |
| | 1 pm | Get Alliterate: Know What it Can Do and What it Can't | GovLoop |
| | 1 pm | Time Travel Club: Bring Children's History Programming to Your Library | Speakerpreneur |
| May 25 | 12 pm | Expense Management in Challenging Economic Times | Charity Village |
| | 1 pm | Exploring Census Data: Emergency Management | US Census Bureau |
| | 1 pm | Reading Video Games as Literature | Colorado State Library |
| | 2 pm | Introduction to Reference Services 4: Legal and Ethical Issues in Reference Services | Amigos Library Services |
| May 30 | 1 pm | Fall Book Club Titles | Booklist |
| | 2 pm | Storytelling for Impact | Firespring |
| May 31 | 10 am | NCompass Live: Pretty Sweet Tech: Bots for the Community! | Nebraska Library Commission |
| | 1 pm | Inclusive Library Collections | Speakerpreneur |
| | 2 pm | Preparing for Program Challenges at your Public Library | ALA |
| Jun 1 | 1:30 pm | Transitioning Technical Services to Hybrid and Remote Work | ALA |
| Jun 6 | 2 pm | Amigos Community Conversations: The Impact of ChatGPT on Library Services | Amigos Library Services |
| Jun 7 | 10:30 am | Creating a Collection Development Policy | Amigos Library Services |
| | 1 pm | Trauma Informed Supervision for Library Leaders Pt 1: Understanding | ALSC |
| Jun 12 | 1:30 pm | Know & Go: The Accidental Cataloger: Tips and Tools to Help You Use the Rules | Amigos Library Services |
| Jun 13 | 1 pm | Trauma Informed Supervision for Library Leaders Pt 2: Supporting Library Staff | ALSC |
| Jun 14 | 9 am | Digital Resources | Indiana State Library |
| Jun 15 | 10 am | Redefining the Library Experience: Insights and Inspiration | OCLC |
| Jun 20 | 1 pm | Is Seeing Really Believing?: Visual Health Misinformation | National Library of Medicine |
| | 3 pm | Introduction to Tik Tok and Reels | MLA Continuing Education |
| Jun 21 | 10:30 am | Library Management: Everyday Negotiations | Amigos Library Services |
| Jun 22-26 | | 2023 ALA Annual Conference & Exhibition | ALA |
| Oct 4-6 | | 2023 Missouri Library Association Annual Conference | MLA |

Meet This Issue's Featured Library Employee for the Missouri Library Association, Sophie Spaid!

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

My name is Sophie Spaid! I work at the St. Louis Public Library in the Creative Experience department. I rotate between the city branches of Barr, Julia Davis, and Central library. I help customers in our digital makerspace learn how to utilize our equipment and software in their creative endeavors!

What originally got you interested in working at a library?

The library was never something that was initially on my radar when I was searching for jobs. My degree is in illustration and I didn't think this was much of an applicable skill in the library. When I saw a job listing for Creative Experience I was immediately interested. Creative Experience allowed me to pursue both art and education! I've been lucky enough to teach classes and lead programs involving my creative skills.

What keeps you coming back every day?

My coworkers! Working in an environment with other creatives who are always challenging you to improve has been a game changer for me. We all rely on each other for feedback and constructive criticism. My coworkers encourage me to apply my skills to our equipment. Coming into work and being surrounded by such incredibly diverse talent has really inspired me and helped me find my love of learning again.

What's challenging about your work?

One of the most challenging things about my job is getting a lot of questions I don't know exactly how to answer. A lot of people will walk in feeling frustrated and confused not knowing exactly how to approach their problems. Everyday I run into new unique situations that require thinking outside the box. There's always something new to learn about the library and everything it offers! I've sat down with a lot of customers to come up with new solutions to the problem together. It's always rewarding to see someone who initially came in upset, walk away feeling accomplished and happy.

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

Working in Creative Experience, I've learned I love making earrings! I draw my design out in Adobe Illustrator and bring them to life using our laser cutter. Combining both my illustrative skills and knowledge of my department has let me explore new creative outlets. It's been so much fun seeing my digital drawings turn into real tangible objects that I can take home with me! Creative Experience is now my go-to place for making custom gifts for my loved ones.

Who is one of your mentors?

My parents Ted and Jill Spaid have always been incredible mentors. My dad works as a landscape architect and has always encouraged me to create. I remember going into his office on Saturday mornings to use all the colorful markers his office had. He has given me great business advice and knows the struggles of working in a creative field. My mom has always been someone I lean on when things get tough. She's gotten lots of late-night phone calls after I had a stressful experience. She has been my rock through everything. They were both overjoyed when they found out I accepted a position at the library. Without them, I wouldn't be where I am today!

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.

One of my favorite shows that I always come back to is Bee and PuppyCat! I told some of my coworkers about it and got them into it too. It's a goofy, cozy, beautifully made series. I recommend watching it on YouTube (it's free!). Bee and PuppyCat has reminded me to take things less seriously. Life is so full of constant change, it can be hard to keep up. If you're ever looking for a short series to brighten up your day and give you a good laugh, I'd highly recommend checking out Bee and PuppyCat.

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

Working in a public library has been challenging, exciting, and full of adventures. I never realized how much the library provides and does for their local community. It's been wonderful to see the impact I've made in my own community. Libraries have so much more than just books!





MLA Legislative Committee

This year's legislative session has been unlike any we have seen before now. Usually, a typical legislative session consisted of the legislative update meeting in January; in February, fellow librarians and advocates would attend Library Advocacy Day to advocate for state funding; and then usually calm and quiet times until the end of the legislative session. This year has been anything but quiet with the issues facing Missouri's libraries and communities.

I am thankful to say that due to no small effort of the MLA membership and our communities, our voices were heard by our legislators. **Over 4,000 letters and over 300 Tweets** were sent by you and other community members to our legislators to voice concerns over many issues. The greatest response came for State Aid for public libraries when it was removed by the House Budget chair due to an unrelated lawsuit taking place.

Thanks to our voices being heard, those funds were restored by the Senate and the position was accepted by the House to be finally passed once fully restored. It was a small few individuals who created the turmoil we saw for libraries this session. We still have so many supporters amongst our legislators.

We cannot forget that a majority of our legislators still believe in libraries and the good that libraries do for their communities. If this was not the case, we would not have seen the funding restored to the budget.

I believe in the power of listening and the power of dialogue.

It is easy to want to stop talking with those who misunderstand and mischaracterize libraries and the work of libraries. But that won't help us continue to serve our communities in the long run. We have to keep reaching out and telling legislators about our libraries, and keep strengthening the connections we have with our legislators. This will protect our communities and the libraries that serve them from future issues.

Now would be a good time to invite your legislators to their library, especially if they have never seen it before. As we are the Show Me State, I recommend you show your legislators the good you do in your community so that next year if and when an issue or question arises they remember your library.

With the legislative session over, we can all take a breath and focus on what's most important, serving our communities. I hope your summer reading participants are many. In fact I hope you see the most participants and readers you've ever seen, and I hope your legislators have an opportunity to see that, as well.

I wish you all a wonderful summer.

Best,
Cody Croan, MLA Legislative Committee, Chair



MLA Conference Committee

Announcing the Opening Keynote Speaker for the 2023 Missouri Library Association Conference!

Dear Missouri Libraries,

We love you truly, madly, deeply and that is why we bring you the delightful President-elect of ALA, Emily Drabinski! Ms. Drabinski is coming to Columbia, Mo., on October 4th to by delivering the opening keynote address and help the Missouri library community as we kick off our annual conference!

Drabinski is an amazing human who has served as chair of the International Relations Committee (2020-21), ALA councilor-at-large (2018-20), and chair of the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) Information Literacy Frameworks and Standards Committee (2019-20).

She cares deeply for libraries and library workers and is an active member of ACRL and Core (Core: Leadership, Infrastructure, Futures). She is co-chair of the ACRL President's Program Planning Committee (2020-21) and serves as reviews editor for *College & Research Libraries*.

Emily Drabinski is Critical Pedagogy Librarian at the Graduate Center, City University of New York. She publishes and presents widely on topics related to knowledge organization, information literacy, and critical perspectives in librarianship. Drabinski edits *Gender and Sexuality in Information Studies*, a book series from Library Juice Press/Litwin Books. She is a contributing writer at *Truthout*.

We give endless gratitude to our MLA president, Otter Bowman, who made this exciting keynote opportunity happen.

Stay tuned! We have many more wondrous surprises to bring you as the conference draws near!

Sincerely,

The 2023 Missouri Library Association Conference Committee



MLA Genealogy & Local History Community of Interest



Award Nominations Open, Highlighting Exciting Endeavors in Local History and Genealogy

The Excellence in Genealogy and Local History Award, sponsored by the Genealogy and Local History Committee of Interest, is given annually to recognize and honor excellence in the field of genealogy and local history for Missouri libraries, repositories, and staff. The award seeks to encourage excellence in genealogical and local history research, patron assistance, exhibits, online resources, public programs, and other media.

Nominations are due July 15th. For full submission guidelines, nomination requirements, and to submit your nomination, visit [Nomination Form - Excellence in Genealogy and Local History Award](#).

Staff from the Local History & Genealogy Department of the Springfield-Greene County Library, the 2022 Excellence in Genealogy and Local History Award recipients.

MLA Professionalism, Education, Employment, and Recruitment (PEER) Community of Interest

Now Accepting Applications for the Ronald G. Bohley Scholarship

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 funded up to \$2000 annually, but can vary by year.

Applicants must be accepted or currently enrolled in an ALA-accredited program for a minimum of three hours of credit in pursuit of a master's degree in Library Science and/or Information Science. 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 are accepted 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, please visit: molib.org/Ronald-G-Bohley-Scholarship

MLA Awards Committee

MLA Awards Nominations Due June 25th

Do you know someone in Missouri who should be recognized for their work in libraries? Do you know of a Missouri library doing exemplary or outstanding work that deserves to be rewarded? Consider making a nomination for one of the Missouri Library Association Awards! The deadline to submit a nomination this year is **June 25, 2023**, and the process is easy!

The MLA Award categories, which link to descriptions and application details, are here:

- [Missouri Library of the Year](#)
- [Outstanding Library Employee \(non-MLS\)](#)
- [Outstanding Professional Librarian](#)
- [Outstanding New Librarian](#)
- [Community Partnership Award](#)
- [Public Relations Achievement Award](#)
- [Virginia G. Young Outstanding Service Award \(for a library trustee/board member\)](#)
- [Meritorious Achievement Award \(for someone retired or outside the profession\)](#)
- [Ronald G. Bohley Award](#)

Go to the [MLA Awards website](#), fill out the award form and click submit! It's that easy.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact any of the members of the MLA Awards Committee:

Meagan Parrett, 2023 Chair: mnparrrett5@gmail.com

Grace Jackson-Brown, Past Chair:
jackson-brown@missouristate.edu

Members:

Taylor Bequette, adultservices@little-dixie.lib.mo

Jay Bitner, jbitner@mymcpl.org

Eric Peterson, ericpetersen@kclibrary.org

Ex-officio Member & MLA President, Otter Bowman, otter@molib.org

St. Louis Regional Library Network



SLRLN SPEAKER SERIES

State Librarian Robin Westphal will discuss
"The Future of Libraries"

6-8 PM, June 14, 2023

Spencer Road Branch of St. Charles City-County Library

SLRLN Annual Business Meeting at 6pm immediately
preceding the program

Register by June 2nd! Seating is limited.

\$10 for SLRLN Members

\$20 for Non-members

<https://slrln.org/event-5243827>



Missouri Evergreen

Steven V. Potter Selected as Missouri Evergreen Consortium Executive Director

Missouri Evergreen Consortium's Executive Board approved a contract to hire Steven V. Potter as the consortium's new Executive Director. Beginning June 1, 2023, Potter will assume MEC's leadership position, overseeing the statewide consortium's 65 member libraries. Potter moves to Missouri Evergreen after a distinguished career as the CEO of Mid-Continent Public Library, the largest library system in the Kansas City metropolitan area.

"Steve Potter is a legend among Missouri libraries, and a nationally recognized and respected figure in the library world," said Sue Lightfoot-Horine, Board President of Missouri Evergreen. "His proven leadership skills, vision, and operational acumen will allow Missouri Evergreen to continue its phenomenal growth as the largest library resource sharing project in the state of Missouri. We are excited for the visionary leadership Steve brings to our consortium."

In his previous position at Mid-Continent Public Library, Potter served as Library Director and CEO for 12 years. All told, his career at Mid-Continent spanned three decades. Potter holds Master's degrees in both Library Science and Public Administration. Potter has served as board member and chair for Amigos Library Services, one of MEC's strategic partners. He is the owner and principal of Potter Training and Consulting, LLC. "I am eager to bring my experience managing a large, complex, board-directed organization, as well as my experience as a community builder and community connector to Missouri Evergreen," Potter said. "The opportunity to continue serving my friends and colleagues in the Missouri library community is deeply gratifying."



"On behalf of the Missouri Evergreen board and membership, I warmly welcome Steve Potter to Missouri Evergreen. He is the right person to lead this consortium into the future," said Mickey Coalwell, MEC's retiring Executive Director. "Steve's knowledge and experience serving Missouri libraries is unparalleled. I can't think of anyone more capable of ensuring this project's long-term success." said Coalwell.

University of Missouri - Columbia

Navadeep Khanal Appointed Head of Teaching and Learning



The University of Missouri Libraries are pleased to announce that Navadeep Khanal has been appointed head of the newly created Teaching & Learning Department within the Research, Access and Instructional Services (RAIS) Division. The Teaching & Learning Department combines the former Instructional Services Department with the E-Learning/Digital Media unit and will support instructional services, e-learning, web content management, and the [Digital Media and Innovation Lab](#). The head of Teaching & Learning will report to the associate university librarian for RAIS and work closely with the head of Research and Information Services to provide forward-thinking leadership in support of the libraries' strategic goal to position the University Libraries as active partners in student-centered learning.

Navadeep has served as the head of E-Learning Technologies at the MU Libraries since 2021. He joined the MU Libraries in 2013 as the e-learning librarian. He earned his PhD in social and community informatics at the University of Illinois in 2012 and a Master of Library and Information Science in 2005. He earned his bachelor's degree in psychology in 2002. Over the years, he has worked closely with his fellow librarians and instructional technology staff at Mizzou. He went on to set up the [Digital Media and Innovation Lab](#) in Ellis Library and take on the additional role as web manager since 2017. Prior to coming to Mizzou, Navadeep worked at the iSchool in Illinois to support research and information technology needs.

University of Missouri – St. Louis

UMSL's Long-Time ILL Supervisor to Retire

Mary Zettwoch, UMSL's Interlibrary Loan Supervisor since 1989, retired on May 1.

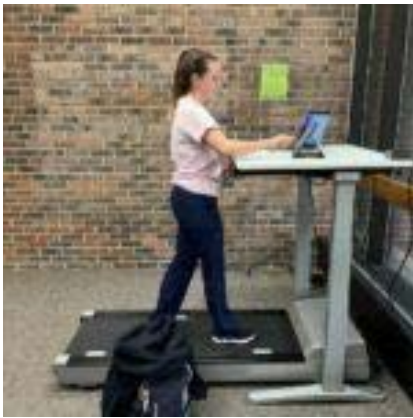
Mary was born and raised in St. Louis and received both her Bachelor's and Master's degrees from UMSL. She began working at the library as a graduate student in Biology and has seen many changes in her corner of the library profession over the past 34 years. When asked what she'll miss most, Mary said, "Every day is different, and I love the detective work—searching for items that patrons have lost hope of finding." She added that she feels lucky to have made so many personal connections with faculty members and graduate students.

After her retirement, Mary and her husband plan to renovate their St. Charles home and do a lot more traveling.

During the last few weeks, Mary has been hard at work training (several) people to fill her shoes. Her coworkers at the Thomas Jefferson Library wish her all the best and thank her for her many years of service.



University of Missouri – Kansas City



Healthier Study Options and New Access Points to OER

The UMKC Health Sciences Library [now offers two treadmill desk stations](#) in our new Active Study Room. Each low-speed Walkstation has an adjustable-height desk, allowing library users to walk while they read, study, write, or participate in an online class or meeting.

The Walkstations are located in the Active Study Room on the south side of the Health Sciences Library, facing large windows overlooking the Health Sciences Campus quad. The room was formerly dominated by a large conference table and was called the Gustave Eisemann Reading Room; we are excited to reimagine this room in ways that support the physical and mental wellbeing of UMKC library users. A standing desk is also available in the Active Study Room, one of several placed throughout the library.

New Access Points for OER

The UMKC Libraries have added [new access points for Open Educational Resources \(OER\)](#) to our library search. LibreTexts and Pressbooks Directory join our other OER collections in the UMKC library search. Library users can locate free and open publications from these providers by searching for a title in our [Library Catalog + Articles search box](#).

When searching by topic or keyword, results from these sources appear in library search results alongside traditionally published academic books and articles.



Jefferson County Library



Don't ask Jefferson County Library staff to count how many rolls of colored tape they've used on their reclassification project. But it's all worth it to make book selection more approachable for patrons!

Each branch of the Jefferson County Library has completed the process of switching from an author call number scheme to a browsing system, classified by genres. "We wanted to make browsing easier for patrons of all ages," said library director Tony Benningfield, "and especially those returning to the library who may not yet know who their favorite author is."

The Children's Department provided the inspiration for the change, Benningfield said. "When children come in looking for a book about animals, they don't know to ask for the latest Willems. We just applied that idea to the general collection."

With twelve genres in juvenile, ten in teens, and four in adults, patrons who may not be familiar with specific titles or authors can more easily find a book that fits their interests.

The move was also born out of a need for call number consistency across the district, according to technical services manager Kate Coleman. At every location, each genre is assigned a color, and books are labeled with colored tape. Signs detailing the system help users locate just what they're looking for.

One thing that hasn't changed? Staying on top of trends! According to Benningfield, "new and popular materials remain the easiest to find." Though it was no small task, it has paid off. Coleman noted that even regular patrons are thrilled with the new experience. "I am so happy with the results and proud of our staff," she said. The rainbow of colors throughout the collection is a bonus, too!"



A.T. Still University

Library Hosts Faculty Publication Exhibit

The A. T. Still Memorial Library appreciates the hard work and effort our faculty have contributed to the field of medical/dental research.

To recognize their contributions to scholarly publications, the library held a Faculty Publication Exhibit during the week of March 27-30, 2023. This week-long event features an exhibit of selected faculty publications and scholarly works, including those funded by federal grant awards.

A.T. Still Memorial Library Staff Attend MLA/SLA Conference

Several A.T. Still Memorial Library staff members presented posters, lightning talks, and an immersion session at the Medical Library Association/Special Libraries Association (MLA/SLA) conference in Detroit. Presentations included: Supporting curriculum through 3D printing, Quantifiable assessment of evidence-based medicine instruction using case-based learning labs, and 'Next Gen': Leadership in the 21st century.

Debra Loguda-Summers, Public Service and 3D Print Service Manager (dsummers@atsu.edu)
Chair; Missouri Literary Committee



Joplin Public Library

Iconic Joplin Blends LEGOs and Local History

Starting in September 2022, the Library's Teen Department has participated in an exciting opportunity highlighting local history research and STEM skills. Iconic Joplin is a contest in which teams of 12-16 year-olds study a Joplin-area landmark (architectural or the natural world) and recreate it in LEGOs. It is an official event of Joplin's Sesquicentennial celebration this year.

Thirty teens divided up into six teams which worked together over the next four months. The teams kicked off their work in December 2022 by getting to know each other, selecting a landmark, formulating an initial plan for their build, and creating a mini-build to symbolize their group. As they researched their sites, teams had access to local history resources including primary source material to help them. On the construction side, teams had an option to consult with an expert (engineer, architect, LEGO master, etc.). Teams had the option for a site visit, where appropriate. Each team also had a modest budget they could spend on specialty LEGOs for their build.

The Joplin Public Library was one of three local sites hosting Iconic Joplin teams along with the [Joplin History & Mineral Museum](#) and the [Creative Learning Alliance](#), our local STEAM center. Host sites partnered to provide space, staff assistance, and guidance during the eight Saturday sessions it took to create the builds.

The six landmarks chosen ranged from historic to contemporary buildings to geographic features of the area. One of the teams hosted by the Joplin Public Library portrayed Grand Falls, a picturesque waterfall that was a recreational hotspot at the turn of the 20th century, and utilized both light and motorized elements to create the falls. Another Library team picked our new building as a contemporary landmark, depicting it cutaway-style to showcase both the exterior elements and interior decor. Teams from the Joplin History & Mineral Museum also used cutaway-style builds to recreate their landmarks, Crystal Cave (a mineral-rich underground cave/recreational spot) and the garage apartment site of the infamous 1933 shootout with Bonnie and Clyde. Teams working at the Creative Learning Alliance built Joplin's Union Depot, a transportation hub for the area, and the Olivia Apartments, a historic building which had burned prior to recent renovations.

The teams' completed builds went on display to the public April 13 at Joplin's [Spiva Center for the Arts](#). The LEGO landmarks will be available for viewing there through May 13. The contest will culminate in an awards ceremony on June 8 to present prizes for people's choice, technical skill, authenticity, and creativity. Brief videos about the Iconic Joplin builds are available at <https://tally.so/r/3q4IK7>.



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An adventure which has been much more than just piecing plastic bricks together, Iconic Joplin has provided opportunities for teens to explore their community, creativity, problem solving, and analytical skills. Participants have used engineering and math skills in their builds. They have practiced budgeting, made critical decisions, expanded their repertoire of soft skills, developed effective communication, and had fun along the way.

[Iconic Joplin](#) is the creation of local entrepreneur, Lisa Nelson, who envisioned a way to provide teens with opportunities to build STEM skills while creating ties to their communities. Nelson's venture, [Landmark Builds](#), was born while constructing LEGO sets with her teenage son and was developed through the Idea Accelerator program of [Builders and Backers](#).



Joplin Public Library's "The Red Dragons" team demo their Grand Falls build



Iconic Joplin creator Lisa Nelson gets a tour of the "The Hidden Halo's" Bonnie & Clydea Hideout build

Have You Seen Our Updated Site?

The Missouri Library Association has a new look!

The public portion of the site is now viewable, even as members-only content is being completed.

This includes the Jobline, an Advocacy section, as well as past issues of everyone's favorite MLA publication.

Take a minute to visit and see what's new!

www.molib.org



Mid-Continent Public Library

MCPL Serves Up ‘Food Business Conference’ for Entrepreneurs

Mid-Continent Public Library’s annual Food Business Conference returned in March, presenting Kansas City metro area entrepreneurs and business owners with the opportunity to learn, launch, and level up their food businesses. Hosted at Kansas State University’s Olathe Campus—and offered by MCPL’s Culinary Center in partnership with K-State, University of Missouri Extension, The Ennovation Center, KCSOURCELINK, and others*—the free two-day event featured workshops on a variety of important topics for current and aspiring food businesses.

From food safety and regulatory inspections, to finding business funding and creating a marketing plan, entrepreneurs had a wide array of expert-led classes to choose from, as well as numerous opportunities to network with business coaches and local support organizations.

“Our hope for the 2023 Food Business Conference is that every current and aspiring ‘foodpreneur’ walks away with a recipe for success!” said MCPL Culinary Center Director Xander Winkel before the event. “These two days will be all about community and helping our local businesses get the resources they need to thrive—because building a successful food business goes beyond just creating delicious products, and a vibrant local business community means a vibrant place for all of us to live.”

Highlights and topics of the 2023 Food Business Conference included:

- How to Price Your Food Products with Rebecca Gubbels, UMKC
- Funding Options Panel with Central Bank and Alt Cap
- Farm to Table Demonstration with KC Food Hub
- Negocio de Productos Alimenticios con Diana Rongish, SCORE
- Legal Considerations for Food Businesses with Adrienne Haynes, Esq.
- Regulatory Inspection Considerations for a New Food Business with Ryan Martin, FDA
- How to Set Up Your Kitchen Space for Success with Chef Tibbs, MCPL Culinary Center
- Social media and market research workshops, MCPL’s Square One Small Business Services

The MCPL Culinary Center, located inside the Library’s Green Hills location, is slated to open in the coming months. The Center is intended to be a destination and resource for anyone interested in learning more about food and culinary entrepreneurship and will feature a teaching kitchen and two shared commercial kitchens. Visit mymcpl.org/Culinary to learn more about the Culinary Center and its offerings.

** This conference was presented in partnership with The Ennovation Center, KCSOURCELINK, Kansas State University Extension, Kansas City Section of the Institute of Food Technologists, Kansas State University–Olathe Campus, and MU Extension. This event is made possible in part by the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation and the Kansas Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education program.*

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Mid-Continent Public Library Sends Student to National Spelling Bee



This March, 37 elementary and middle school students from around the Kansas City metro came together at Mid-Continent Public Library's Midwest Genealogy Center to compete in the annual Mid-Continent Public Library Spelling Bee. Spellers faced off against one another for the title of regional spelling bee champion as well as the chance to participate in the Scripps National Spelling Bee in Maryland, May 28–June 2.

After 20 competitive rounds, Blue Springs, Missouri, seventh grader Garrett Fry took the title after correctly spelling "genuflect." Fry will now have the opportunity to compete in the Scripps National Bee, with travel expenses covered by MCPL. The finals for the Scripps National Bee, held at the Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center in National Harbor, Maryland, will be broadcast on live national TV.

Competitors at the MCPL Spelling Bee in March represented six public school districts, four parochial schools, and three private schools in Jackson, Clay, and Platte Counties. All competitors qualified for the MCPL Spelling Bee by winning their local school bee as well as scoring in the top third of the online semi-final bee hosted by the Library. The championship Bee was a single-elimination competition, and spellers were evaluated by a panel of five judges and recorders. Dan Margolies of 91.9 FM, Classical KC, served as the Bee's pronouncer.

This year's MCPL Spelling Bee was recorded and is now available for viewing on MCPL's YouTube channel. Information about the annual MCPL Bee can be found at mymcpl.org/SpellingBee. Also, "bee" sure to follow the MCPL Spelling Bee on [Facebook](#) to hear the latest buzz!

Mid-Continent Public Library Breaks Ground on New Branch



On Friday, March 31, Mid-Continent Public Library leaders and local officials broke ground on the Library's brand-new East Independence Branch, located at Little Blue Pkwy and S. Heartland Drive in Independence (just south of I-70). The 12,500-square-foot branch will be the Library's fourth location in the city (including its Midwest Genealogy Center) and is slated to open in 2024.

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The East Independence Branch will offer a variety of amenities to Library customers, including:

- A community program room
- Two meeting rooms (available for reservation by the public)
- A drive-thru
- Dedicated children and teen areas
- Outdoor seating
- Upgraded technology

MCPL acquired the East Independence Branch property from LANE4 Property Group earlier last year, and construction plans were approved by the Library's Board in December. As part of the Library's Capital Improvement Plan, construction of the East Independence Branch is made possible by funding from Proposition L, which voters passed in 2016, increasing the Library's funding for the first time in more than 30 years.



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 mvmcpl.org/Community.



Springfield-Greene County Library District

Kitchen a la Cart Comes to the Maker Space this Summer



A mobile kitchen cart complete with oven, burner and sink will be available for hands-on cooking lessons at the Maker Space this summer, thanks to a \$15,000 Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) Spotlight on Literacy 2023 grant. The grant funded the purchase of a Kitchen a la Cart from Edible Education. It's a fully equipped mobile teaching kitchen that includes oven, burner and sink as well as small wares such as safety knives, cutting boards and measuring cups. It is housed at the Midtown Carnegie Branch in the newly expanded Maker Space.

This summer and fall, staff will work with MU Extension on a series of hands-on programs for kids and adults focusing on basic food and kitchen skills, accessible recipes and creatively stretching food dollars. Another partner, Springfield Community Gardens, has agreed to provide fresh produce for the programs.

The grant is supported by the Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA), as administered by the Missouri State Library, a division of the Office of the Secretary of State.

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Emily Hertzog named Development Director

Emily Hertzog has moved from the Springfield Arts Council to take on fundraising for the library district as Development Director. She will be responsible for leading capital campaigns for the proposed Library Center auditorium expansion and construction of a new Republic Branch Library. She will also develop fundraisers and grant requests to the Library Foundation.

Library Center Site of No-Excuse Absentee Voting

The Library Center served as Greene County's first satellite site for No-Excuse Absentee Voting ahead of the April 4 election. No-Excuse Absentee Voting allowed a Greene County registered voter to cast their absentee vote without having to declare a reason for two weeks prior to the election. Voting was permitted in the auditorium from 9 a.m.–4 p.m. Tuesday–Friday, March 28–31, and Monday, April 3. The new election integrity law, HB 1878, provided this opportunity. The office wanted to extend an additional location to Greene County voters at a well-known, accessible location that people are familiar with, Greene County Clerk Shane Schoeller said. The legislature passed No-Excuse Absentee Voting effective August 2022, and it was offered at the Greene County Elections Center before the November 2022 election.



Symphony Fills Every Space with Music and People

The Springfield Symphony Chamber Orchestra drew 400 people of all ages to the Library Center on Sunday, March 27, the orchestra's third such one-hour concert. The free event was sponsored by the Friends of the Library. Conductor Kyle Wiley Pickett narrated the performance of "Peter and the Wolf," and introduced two other orchestral pieces including the score to "How to Tame Your Dragon." Executive Director Regina Greer Cooper welcomed the full house that spread out across much of the main floor, making a pitch about the need for an auditorium expansion that would allow more and bigger such events.

Author Diane Wilson Inspires Reverence for Seed Keeping

More than 140 people at the Library Center on Thursday, April 13, heard Diane Wilson share the lessons from her book, "The Seed Keeper," the Library's 2023 One Read featured title. Community Relations Director Kathleen O'Dell, interviewed her before Wilson took audience questions. "Cherish heirloom seeds," Wilson said. "Plant them and support community gardens, because those pure seeds are our link to the past and essential to our survival." Wilson's visit capped a series of programs in March and April that explored Native American gardening practices, reed basket making and cooking. The programs gave us the opportunity to partner with the American Indian Center of Springfield and Springfield Community Gardens.



Poplar Bluff Library

Poplar Bluff Library Foundation Holds First Biennial Awards Banquet

The Poplar Bluff Municipal Library Foundation, Inc., held its first biennial Awards Banquet on Saturday, April 1, 2023. Incorporated in 2017, the Foundation is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization committed to supporting new opportunities for library services. At this year's banquet, the Foundation Board of Directors honored those that have helped to make the Library's success possible and recognized retiring library director Sue Crites Szostak.

The Foundation surprised former trustee, John Stanard, with its first Community Partner of the Year Award. During his 24 years of dedicated service, Mr. Stanard was pivotal in facilitating both the expansion of the downtown library in 1997 and its proceeding full-building renovation in 2008. In addition, Mr. Stanard advocated at the state legislature enabling the Library to shift funding from property tax to sales tax. This change in funding tripled the Library's annual tax revenues. He also helped secure the deed to and ownership of the historic downtown library building and property in 2021.

In tribute and recognition of her years of dedicated and impactful library service, the Foundation named the new Outstanding Staff Award in honor of retiring library director Sue Crites Szostak. "Sue has always exhibited a voracious commitment to library service, always looking for new ways to bring value, grow, expand, and enhance offerings to the patrons and communities the library serves," said new director Shannon Midyett.



This year's Outstanding Staff Award winner was Patricia Cozort, nominated by her fellow employees for her unfailing ability to perform her duties in the business office and human resources. In presenting Cozort's award, Foundation vice president Bill Hirtz said, "A library's greatest resource is its employees, and we wish to put a spotlight on those people for the growth and reputation of our library."

For the Foundation, this banquet is just the first of many more to follow. The Foundation has set its ultimate goal as supporting the library in expanding services with future capital campaigns and in paving the way for greater professional development opportunities for staff.

Exciting Exhibits at the Poplar Bluff Library

The Poplar Bluff Library is proud to present their latest exhibits *Small Town Miniatures* by Belinda Bailey and *Legos in the Library* by Lisa Bliss.

In 2020, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Belinda Bailey began looking for a new hobby to entertain herself. Inspired by her family, Bailey began creating miniatures.

"My mother, Pat Templemire, has always enjoyed miniature dollhouses and collecting unique miniatures wherever she goes. I started making miniatures for my family and friends for birthdays and Christmas gifts. I watched countless hours of Youtube, researched artists, and followed Pinterest artists for ideas and techniques. I joined several miniature Facebook groups to share my projects and get inspired by others that also enjoy this unique hobby."

Bailey's miniatures have become so popular that family and friends have encouraged her to sell them to the public and on Etsy so that others can appreciate her artistry and find joy in the little scenes. While not yet on the market, Bailey is grateful that the Poplar Bluff Library was able to display her projects for the local community to view and enjoy.

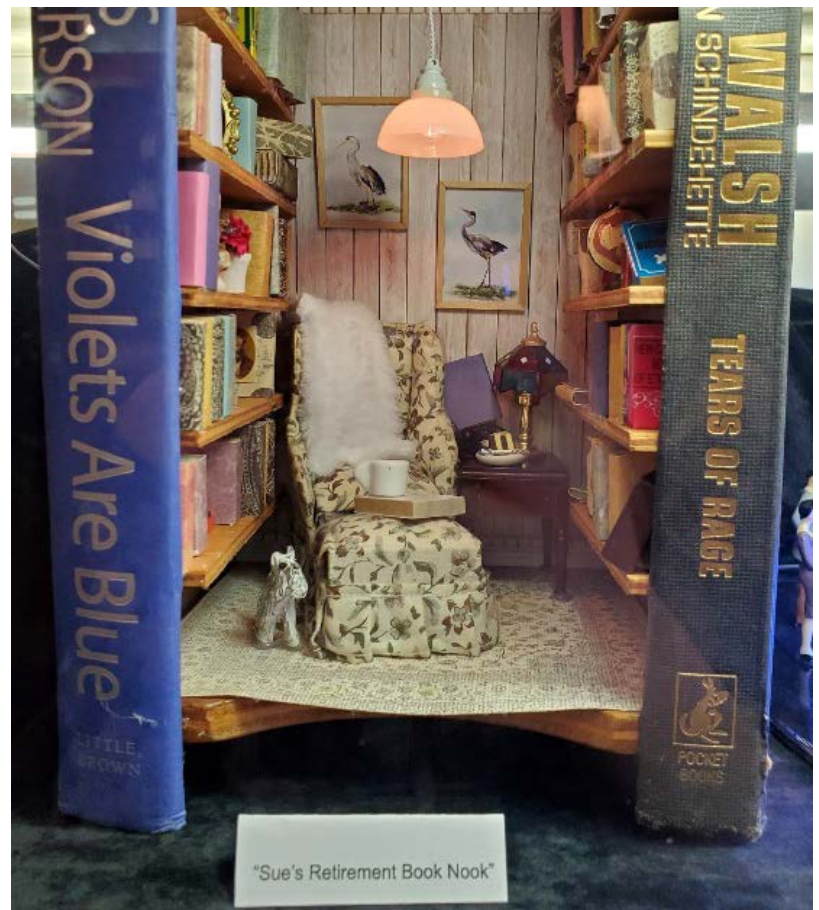


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"I have to say that I often wondered why I am spending so much thought and time on these little guys that no one will probably ever see. It means so much that others are able to view them, and hopefully they make viewers smile."

All the pieces in the miniatures exhibit utilized found objects as the base and featured miniature sculptures and props that rounded out the scenes.

Lisa Bliss, who got hooked on LEGO sets after building them with her children, found her inspiration a little further from home.



"In 2009, my husband and I went to Scotland and visited one of the castles where they filmed the Harry Potter movies. This trip inspired me to build castles with LEGO. The only ones available at that time were the Harry Potter sets. I have now put together almost all of the Harry Potter sets, and I have branched out into many other types of LEGO sets, from Pirate Ships to Architecture from around the World, Cars, Batman, and the Avengers. Now my house is full of LEGO!"

Bliss's Harry Potter collection is currently on display at the Main Branch located at 318 North Main Street in Poplar Bluff, Missouri. The sets on display include the Hogwarts Castle, Hogwarts Express, Diagon Alley, Shrieking Shack, and more. They are available for viewing from now until the end of June.





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