

MO INFO

Newsletter of the Missouri Library Association

March 2024

Volume 55, Number 2

President's Column



Greetings, fellow MLA Members!

Thank you to everyone who showed up and took part in Library Advocacy Day! Over 100 library workers and library supporters joined in conversations with each other and with their representatives in Jefferson City on February 6. Together, we shared the value libraries bring to our communities, and promoted both the continuation of state funding for libraries and support for libraries and their workers in general. President-Elect Rachelle Brandel and I spent the afternoon visiting candidates running for Secretary of State. We also called on legislators from around the state to represent libraries who couldn't come in person - something that I plan to encourage MLA leadership to continue building in the future. While not every library can afford for workers to take the day and travel, we can bring your messages, letters, and even Facetime calls directly to the elected officials who represent you and your communities.

(See pictures on page 7.)

Of course, advocacy for libraries is not limited to one day, or one week, out of the year. Legislative Chair Cody Croan created a virtual campaign through which supporters could engage with representatives even if they were unable to come in person. I encourage you to continue to reach out throughout the upcoming legislative session and election cycle. Share your stories with your representatives and encourage your communities to do the same. Make sure that our legislators know throughout their time in committees, when reviewing bills, and when voting on budgets and spending, that their constituents value libraries.

In order to increase the effectiveness of our communication, I've been participating in ALA's chapter advocacy workshop, which began with a three-day 'bootcamp' in December and convenes monthly throughout the year. I look forward to sharing the skills and tools learned both with MLA and with you. (For example, the new [Book Resumes tool](#), detailing the significance and educational value of titles from Unite Against Book Bans.)

The work that gets done in all of these areas wouldn't be possible without all of our amazing MLA members and volunteers. I recently sent out a call for Committee volunteers, and while we are almost fully staffed, your engagement is welcomed and vital. We are also still in need of an Archivist, so if your skills and interest align with that position, or with any Committee, please reach out!

Planning for the Annual Conference is in full swing – keep an eye out for the call for proposals, and bookmark your calendars for September 25-27 in Kansas City. The contract for 2025 Annual Conference in St. Louis was also recently signed, so if you live in the St. Louis area and are interested in serving as a conference coordinator, please reach out. You will have the support of past coordinators and all their materials. Speaking from experience, it's an amazing way to really engage with the library community we're all a part of.

As always, thank you for everything you do for our communities, for our libraries, and for MLA. Don't hesitate to reach out with any questions, concerns, or ideas to improve our organization.

Best,

Kimberly Moeller
MLA President 2024
mlapresident@molib.org

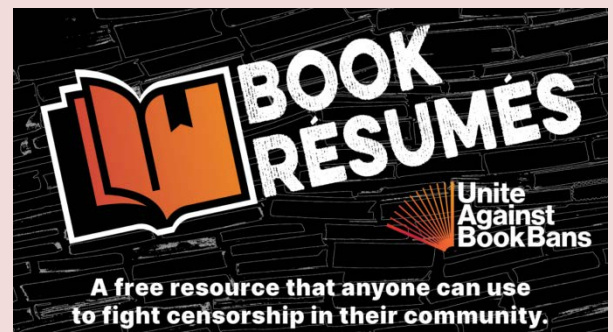
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New Anti-Censorship Resource Now Available

In her President’s Message (*see page 1*), MLA President Kimberly Moeller referred to a new tool to help resist book censorship efforts from Unite Against Book Bans. In collaboration with the publishing community, they are unveiling a free collection of book résumés at bookresumes.uniteagainstbookbans.org to support librarians, educators, parents, students, and other community advocates in their efforts to keep frequently challenged books on shelves.

Created in partnership with dozens of publishers and with information provided by publishers, librarians, and School Library Journal, Unite Against Book Bans book résumés are easy-to-print documents designed to help support readers’ access to books that are targeted by censors. Each book résumé summarizes the book’s significance and educational value, including a synopsis, reviews from professional journals, awards, accolades, and more. Where possible, the book résumés also include information about how a title has been successfully retained in school districts and libraries after a demand to censor the book. These documents are in a PDF format that can be downloaded and printed for easy sharing with administrators, book review committees, and the public at board meetings.



Calendar of Events

Training opportunities such as these teach skills and strategies, and introduce you to titles and new resources. Find start times, links to descriptions, and any registration fees. Schedule subject to change. Have a training source you'd like to recommend? Email satterfieldk@mrrl.org

Date	Time CDT	Event	Sponsor
March 18	1 pm	Middle Grade Graphic Novel Debuts from Random House Children's Books	Booklist
March 19	1 pm	Picture Books	Booklist
	1 pm	Researching Women's, Gender, and LGBTQIA+ Perspectives at the Library of Congress	FDLP
	3:30 pm	Digital Literacy - Search and Research Skills	MOREnet
March 20	12 pm	Video Killed the Radio Star: Making Effective Collections Care Videos	Connecting to Collections Care
	1 pm	Instruction Strategies to Support Neurodivergent Students	ACRL
	1 pm	Circulation Desk Spanish	PCI Webinar
March 21	1 pm	Summer Scares YA Panel	Booklist
	2 pm	Introduction to Generative AI Tools	NNLM
	2 pm	Breaking Down Barriers: Building Inclusive and Equitable Libraries Through Identity Literacy	MALA
March 25	1 pm	Summer Scares Adult Panel	Booklist
March 26	10 am	No Country for Old Westerns: Rethinking Western Readers Advisory	Texas State Library
	1 pm	Strong Women & Girls Titles	Booklist
March 26-27	10 am	Serving the Neurodiverse Library User	Amigos Library Services
March 27	9 am	An Introduction to Trauma-Informed Services for Libraries	Massachusetts Library System
	9 am	What the Research Says - Digital Privacy in libraries as Digital Literacy	Indiana State Library
	1 pm	A Higher Purpose: Censorship and Intellectual Freedom Today	Georgia Library Association
	1 pm	Happiness at Work	Arkansas State Library
	1 pm	Lee and Loe Fall 2024 Showcase	Booklist
March 29-April 12		Building Successful Collaborations with the Communities: Collective Impact	NNLM
April 1	1:30 pm	Donation and Gift Policy Best Practices for Libraries	Amigos Library Services
April 2	10 am	Ebooks for Everyone!	MOREnet
April 3	1 pm	The Best Folk and Fairy Tale Picture Books for Preschoolers	PCI Webinar
	2 pm	Implementation of Telehealth Services in Rural Public Libraries	NNLM
April 9	2 pm	Providing Mental Health Information at Your Library	NNLM
April 10	9 am	Geri-Fit at the Library: A Look at How Evidence-Based Fitness Programming can be Implemen	Indiana State Library
	1 pm	Perspectives of Value: Using Language to Change Perceived Value of the Library	PCI Webinar
	2 pm	Cooking Among the Books: Culinary in the Library	MALA
April 11	2 pm	Don't Just Stand There, Say Something! Networking and Communication Skills for Librarian	Amigos Library Services
April 15	1:30 pm	Bedbugs in the Library	Amigos Library Services
April 25	11:30 am	From Wallflowers to Power Players: Mastering the Art of Networking	NNLM
April 30	8 am	Global Copyright Challenges	Copyright Clearance Center
May 2	10 am	Introduction to Library Acquisitions	Amigos Library Services
May 6	1:30 pm	Camera Ready - Quick Library Video Tips and Takes	Amigos Library Services
May 8	10 am	Sharing is Caring: Hosting a Swap at Your Library	MALA
	11 am	Indigenous-specific collections development; Indigenous librarianship	Amigos Library Services
	2 pm	Excellence in Library Services to Older Adults	Amigos Library Services
May 10		2024 Library Instruction Together Conference (Nashville, TN)	Library Instruction Together
May 14-21	2 pm	Understanding Website Accessibility	Amigos Library Services
June 27-July 2		ALA Annual Conference & Exhibition (San Diego, CA)	ALA
September 25-27		2024 MLA Conference: Innovate, Integrate, Inspire: Crafting the Future Library Experience (Kansas City, MO)	MLA

Meet this Issue's Featured Library Employee for the Missouri Library Association, Hadiza Sa-Aadu!



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

My name is Hadiza and I am a small business and non-profit specialist at the Kansas City Public Library.

What originally got you interested in working at a library?

I spent a lot of time in the library after school as a kid and teen in Iowa. My first "job" was actually volunteering for the library in 5th grade. I was even part of the Coralville Public Library's inaugural Teen Advisory Board (we endearingly called "Tab"). Because of these experiences, working in a library as an adult was always a possibility in my mind, and I've always thought to look at library job postings in the places I've lived.

Before my position at the KC Public Library, I was never actually hired nor interviewed for any library system. That changed in 2019, a little less than a year out of grad school (University of Iowa's MBA program). In grad school I had an assistantship where I helped small business owners with marketing. I was actually working part-time for LINC as a student counselor when I saw the opening at the KC Public Library and thought it was the perfect fit. And now I've been here almost 5 years!

What keeps you coming back every day?

Getting to meet people who have real solutions to real problems and getting to know them over time. Also figuring out ways to use Library assets to help people who face immense barriers to accessing technological, digital and other resources in the broader Kansas City entrepreneurial and non-profit ecosystem.

What's challenging about your work?

I'm only one person and cannot remove the barriers by myself. No singular group, organization or company can either, at least not for everyone. The challenges that manifest when working with patrons in my role are the challenges imposed by a capitalist society that designates certain classes of people as "less than" and, at best, not to be taken seriously. My job often is to be an advocate for people who have tried accessing resources but for various structural and interpersonal reasons, are not able to get the assistance they are seeking.

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

I've always been a curious person. Libraries have only fueled that curiosity. My work allows me to see who is doing good work in Kansas City and I'm always so amazed by the fact that many different people who have never met, but who experience the same challenges imposed by capitalism have similar ideas. My goal is to bring these people and groups together to form some sort of coalition to better advocate for and meet the needs of people whose autonomy is often not considered, especially unhoused people, people who have dealt with addiction and severe mental health issues and people coming out of incarceration.

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

I've been reading Silvia Wynter's *Unsettling the Coloniality of Being/Power/Truth/Freedom: Towards the Human, After Man, Its Overrepresentation—An Argument*. I'm reading it quite slowly because the writing is a bit dense. I'm reading it because I've been thinking about the world we live in and how it was designed to be this way. None of this immense inequality was a mistake.

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

Today, the people of Sudan have endured over 300 days of ethnic cleansing and outright genocide at the hands of militarized groups. The people of Palestine have endured over 100 days of outright genocide in retaliation to their resistance efforts against Zionist occupation for over 75 years. As these genocides continue, and the clarity of U.S. involvement begins to seep into wider consciousness, the question of "who gets to be fully human" is one that we in the Western world will be forced to answer with simplicity and clarity. Institutionally speaking, I believe public libraries are the most equipped to lead this charge.



Missouri Association of Community Arts Agencies

Ghost Light Funding Available

[MACAA](#), the Missouri Association of Community Arts Agencies, is a capacity-building coalition non-profit that specializes in helping build, fund, and equip small local arts organizations and initiatives throughout Missouri.

Each year, through their Ghost Light Funding Program, they award funds from the Missouri Arts Council to smaller communities who don't have direct Missouri Arts Council grants. They distribute micro grants of around **\$500 to \$1500 per project** to any public entity in a congressional district not already directly funded for any sort of public art program, event, class, or installation.

This year, they still have money left for 23 political districts, listed below. Any library with a branch in those districts can request funds for an arts-related project that **takes place before June 30** of this year. A new funding cycle begins July 1, 2024 and goes through June 30, 2025.

Qualifications:

- In order to qualify for Ghost Light Project funding, an organization cannot already receive Missouri Arts Council funding of any kind.
- Your legislative district cannot already receive Missouri Arts Council funding of any kind.
- Assistance is on a first come-first served basis and is not meant to be on-going.
- Funding level for the program varies and is determined by program criteria and the project budget.
- Funds must be used before June 30, 2024.

Notes about the application process:

- The application is one page, front and back, and they can even help you fill it out!
- You do not need to join the organization to receive the grant.
- Though MACAA prefers the bulk of the funding they provide go to paying the artists or performers, you can include supplies, promotional materials, and even travel costs as a part of your ask.
- Though they request acknowledgement and pictures and stories of the results, there is no final report.

Eligible Districts

- 8: Rep. Josh Hurlbert (Smithville and Plattsburg)
- 9: Rep. Dean Van Schoiack (Cameron and Savannah)
- 29: Rep. Aaron Crossley (SW: south of Independence)
- 41: Rep. Doyle Justus (NE: O'Fallon)
- 49: Rep. Jim Schulte (Central: Jefferson City)
- 62: Rep. Sherri Gallick (KC: Cass and Bates Counties)
- 64: Rep. Tony Lovasco (KC: Peculiar and southwest Raymore)
- 66: Rep. Marlene Terry (Northeast St. Louis)
- 92: Rep. Michael Burton (STL: Concord, Lakeshire, Afton)
- 97: Rep. David Casteel (SE: southeast of Eureka)
- 105: Rep. Adam Schwardon (SE: South St. Charles)
- 110: Rep. Justin Sparks (STL: Wildwood)
- 111: Rep. Gary Bonacker (SE: West of Festus)

- 116: Rep. Dale Wright (SE: Farmington and Fredricktown)
- 118: Rep. Mike McGirl (SE: Sullivan)
- 124: Rep. Don Mayhew (SW: Pulaski/Miller counties, including Eldon, Crocker)
- 126: Rep. Jim Kalberloh (South of Warrensburg)
- 128: Rep. Mike Stephens (SW: Bolivar)
- 131: Rep. Bill Owen (SW: Ash Grove Northwest of Springfield)
- 134: Rep. Alex Riley (South Springfield)
- 141: Rep. Hannah Kelly (SW: Between Lebanon, Ft. Leonard Wood, Marshfield, Ava)
- 148: Rep. Jamie Burger (SE: Sikeston)
- 153: Rep. Darrell Atchison (SE: West of Poplar Bluff)

Interested?

Email Leslie Forrester, Ghost Light Coordinator, at leslie@macaa.net or call Michael Gaines, MACAA Executive Director, at (573) 221-4853.

Funding is first come, first served, so contact them right away to get started!

ALA Chapter Councilor



Dear MLA Members,

It is my honor to represent you as your ALA Chapter Councilor. The past couple of years have been a time of significant change for the organization, including but not limited to reorganizing ALA Council and the senior leadership structure. During the LibLearnX Conference this year, ALA Council adopted a new set of Core Values of Librarianship: Access, Equity, Intellectual Freedom & Privacy, Public Good and Sustainability. There was some discussion around the meaning of Public Good, and so the Core Values Task

Force asked that the ALA Executive Board assign working groups, committees or round tables to write interpretations for each Core Value. You can read more about the updated values here: www.ala.org/news/press-releases/2024/02/american-library-association-updates-core-values

The Council approved a Resolution on Damage and Destruction of Libraries and other Cultural Institutions in Gaza. A related Resolution Calling for an Immediate Ceasefire in Gaza was defeated. As one might imagine, the issue can be quite divisive and emotions ran high during the discussion. The role of ALA in taking political stances outside of, or tangential to, the mission of the organization was part of the expressed concerns.

ALA personal dues for FY 2025 were set as follows: Individual Type 1, \$125 (librarians, managers); Individual Type 2, \$55 (support staff, retirees, etc.); Supporter, \$70 and Student, \$40. This follows a simplified membership model that consolidates 11 membership categories down to 4 and adjusts most categories slightly downward. Membership in ALA is continuing to fall (48,008 in 2023, down from 66,075 in 2005), so the ALA Executive Board and Council are working together to cut costs and streamline services. In spite of falling member numbers, the American Library Association remains a vibrant, engaged professional organization dedicated to serving its members in the cause of librarianship. If you are not a member, I encourage you to consider joining.

Best,

Margaret Conroy, ALA Councilor

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!

Searching for a New Position? (Or a New Employee?)

Another great perk of MLA Membership in the Jobline. Found on the [MLA website](http://www.mla.org) and shared regularly on the [MLA listserv](http://www.mla.org), it provides a service to both employers and employees. A [two-week posting](http://www.mla.org) is \$40 per job advertised, but are provided at no charge to MLA institutional members and to libraries that provide individual memberships for all their trustees.



MLA Legislative Committee

Library Advocacy Day was another huge success and grew even more since last year! We had about 100 librarians and library advocates 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. This is the first step of many for getting to know our legislators and informing them on the positive impacts their library has on the community.

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

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

While Library Advocacy Day was a huge success, we have a lot of work ahead of us still. The MLA Legislative Committee will continue to watch how [HB 12](#) moves through the House and the Senate so that 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 2084](#), [HB 1512](#), and [HB 2498](#).

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 MO libraries on Library Advocacy Day, and every other day.

I appreciate you all!

Best Regards,

Cody Croan, MLA Legislative Committee Chair

Images from Library Advocacy Day 2024



(Clockwise from left) Librarians gather outside the Capitol; State Librarian Robin Westphal speaks; MLA President Kimberly Moeller and President-Elect Rachelle Brandel; Legislative Advocate Randy Sheer, Moeller, Westphal and Legislative Chair Cody Croan; and MLA/MASL leadership (Brandel, Moeller, MASL AASL Delegate and MLA Liaison Hope Hunter, and MASL President Tom Bober).





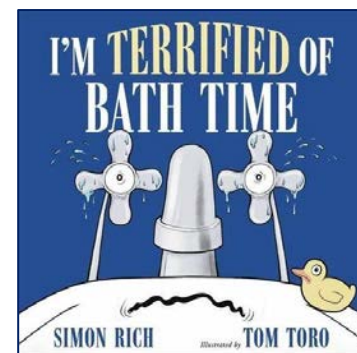
Missouri Building Block Picture Book Award

2023 Winner and 2024 Nominees Announced

We are excited to announce the winner of the 2023 Missouri Building Block Picture Book Award. Almost 13,000 Missouri children voted this year, and *I'm Terrified of Bath Time* written by Simon Rich and illustrated by Tom Toro is the winner!

Here are the top five titles:

1. *I'm Terrified of Bath Time* written by Simon Rich and illustrated by Tom Toro - 2,318 votes
2. *The Book of Rules* written by Brian Gehrlein and illustrated by Tom Knight - 1,887 votes
3. *I'm a Unicorn* by Helen Yoon - 1,795 votes
4. *Lou* by Breanna Carzoo - 1,585 votes
5. *Don't Eat Bees: Life Lessons from Chip the Dog* written by Pev Petty and illustrated by Mike Boldt - 1,295 votes



Now, on to 2024!

We invite you to read and vote on your favorite titles from this exciting new group of nominees:

- *I Was Born a Baby* by Meg Fleming
- *Mister Kitty is Lost* by Greg Pizzoli
- *Best Bad Day Ever* by Marianna Coppo
- *Problem Solved!* by Jan Thomas
- *A Bear, A Bee, and a Honey Tree* by Daniel Bernstromm
- *Woo Hoo! You're Doing Great!* by Sandra Boynton
- *NO Is all I know!* by Chris Grabenstein
- *A Good Place* by Lucy Cousins
- *My Dad is a Tree* by Jon Agee
- *I am Stuck* by Julia Mills

We hope you and your youth enjoy this year's selections as much as last year's.

For more information about the Missouri Building Block Picture Book Award and fun resources, visit our website at molib.org/Building-Block-Award. The Missouri Building Block committee wants to thank all of the teachers, librarians, parents, and caregivers who read to their kids and helped them vote. Your support fuels this award!

– Erin Hood, Awards Chair, Missouri Building Block Award Committee



Amigos Member Benefits News

Amigos Members Win NISO Plus Scholarships

Each year, the National Information Standards Organization (NISO) Plus conference brings people together in a dynamic forum to explore and tackle trends and challenges in the global information community. The NISO Plus Scholarship program extends a unique opportunity for a group of emerging and mid-career professionals to contribute their perspectives and make their voices heard.

Please join us in congratulating these Amigos member library staff who were awarded 2024 NISO Plus Scholarships:

- Karina Sanchez, Scholars Lab Librarian, University of Texas at Austin Library
- Maria Smith, Electronic Resources Librarian, University of Mary Hardin-Baylor
- Katherine Witzig, Library Administrative Assistant, Oklahoma City University and Student, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

As a benefit of membership, all Amigos member libraries are also members of the NISO Library Standards Alliance. This provides libraries with full LSA membership benefits, including free access to NISO's educational webinar program, unlimited participation in NISO Working Groups/Standing Committees and discounted registration for all non-webinar events, including the annual NISO Plus conference.

Member Discount News

Free Games and Discount on the Interactive PLAY Touch Table

After-Mouse, creators of the interactive PLAY Touch Table, is an Amigos vendor partner through the Discount Direct program. The PLAY table is featured in more than 200 libraries nationwide. For a limited time, Amigos members can receive a total discount of \$700 on a new PLAY Table.

2024 Nexis Uni Upgrade Announcement with Webinar

Amigos vendor partner, LexisNexis has announced an upgrade to Nexis Uni that will replace the current product experience by the end of June 2024. LexisNexis is providing 30-minute webinars on the new Upgraded Nexis Uni experience from February 1, 2024, through March 26, 2024.

Save 40% on New Releases from Ambrose Video

Ambrose Video recently released two new series, "The Genius of African American Music" and "Genius of African American Dance" and announced another coming soon, "The Genius of Latine Dance". Amigos members receive 40% off the list price and can purchase by video or by series.

Continuing Education News

Missed "Creative Solutions in Cataloging, Acquisitions, and Resources Management" Today? Register for the recording!

If you missed the February 15, 2024, online conference, "Creative Solutions in Cataloging, Acquisitions, and Resources Management", there's still a chance to view the sessions by registering for the recording. Registration for Amigos online conferences is free for Amigos members.

Continued on next page

Share Your Experience in Leading, Partnering and Connecting

Across the Amigos network - and the wider profession - libraries and library professionals are leading, partnering and connecting in new and innovative ways. How have you opened expectations for new services and technologies? Where have you found a breakthrough with community partners or across staff collaborations? These are some of the exciting questions that will be explored online May 15- at “Leading. Partnering. Connecting. The Amigos Member Conference 2024.”

Take advantage of this opportunity to share your knowledge and experience with other Amigos members and submit your proposal by March 26, 2024.

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. Contact learning@amigos.org for more information.

Amigos Online Conferences

Easy to Access, Meaningful to Attend

Online conferences are a no-charge benefit for Amigos member libraries.

Register today for access to recent conferences:

- Creative Solutions in Cataloging, Acquisitions and Resources Management
- Reimagining Libraries: Exploring the AI & VR Revolution in Library Services
- Libraries Address Inequities
- Amigos Member Conference 2023: Libraries Plan to Succeed

Please Note: Attendees registered for the live event already have access to the past conference recordings. To view the recordings, login with the credentials provided for attending the live conference.

Amigos Online Learning

Free for Members

Online topical conferences, the annual member conference, Know and Go sessions, Community Conversations and NISO member webinars are all no charge to Amigos members. Upcoming free opportunities include:

- Know & Go: Serving K-12 in the Academic Library March 18, 1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.
- Know & Go: Documenting Library Work: Lessons We Can Learn from Technical Writers March 25, 1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.
- Know & Go: Donation and Gift Policy Best Practices for Libraries April 1, 1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.
- Know & Go: Developing Information Literacy Lessons for First-Year College Students April 8, 1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.
- Know & Go: Bedbugs in the Library April 15, 1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.
- Sustainability in Publishing April 17, 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
- Know & Go: Camera Ready - Quick Library Video Tips and Takes May 6, 1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.
- Indigenous-specific collections development; Indigenous librarianship May 8, 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Discounted for Members

Review the Continuing Education Schedule for the latest additions and updates!

- Serving the Neurodiverse Library User March 26-27, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Continued on next page

- The Accidental Library Fundraiser April 4, 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
- Don't Just Stand There, Say Something! Networking and Communication Skills for Librarians April 11, 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
- Introduction to Library Acquisitions May 2, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
- Excellence in Library Services to Older Adults May 8, 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
- Understanding Website Accessibility May 14-21, 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
- Strategic Communication Planning for Libraries June 4-11, 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.



ATSU - A.T. Still Memorial Library Awarded Patent

In 2017, A.T. Still University hosted its annual “SparkTank” contest, where students could pitch their innovative ideas for teaching and learning before a live audience and panel of seven ATSU judges. Two ATSU students, along with Debra Loguda-Summers, Public service and 3D print service manager at A.T. Still Memorial Library presented their project “3-D Cervical and Lumbar Models for Epidural Placement Training.” This project focused on developing a realistic 3-D cervical and lumbar model for medical students, interns, and residents to practice injection skills in an environment without consequences, thereby increasing the skill level of the individual administering an injection. The team was awarded a \$5,000 grant to implement their idea.

Working with the academic technologies department and the library’s 3D printing lab, several prototypes were designed; in the end, the team produced cervical, lumbar, and pelvis models for training in the ultrasound lab. The next step was testing the models using ultrasound equipment and working with faculty in the ultrasound lab; the models were tested for accuracy and ease of use. Once all this was finished, research posters and articles were produced, and the University helped the team apply for a patent, which was awarded in October 2023.

Using this information to build the epidural models, the library is working with several other departments to develop low-cost 3-D ballistic gel training models.

– Debra Logunda-Summers, Public service and 3-D print service manager



Cervical 3-D Ballistic Gel Model, Patent 11,798,433 B2, October 2023



University of Missouri – Kansas City



UMKC grad students are encouraged to “camp” out to improve their writing this summer.

for the soul.” This event is remarkable for bringing this celebration of culture and literature to the wider Kansas City community, as well as the UMKC community.

UMKC Libraries Partnering Up to Help Grad Students Improve Writing

This June, UMKC Libraries are partnering with the UMKC [Graduate Writing Initiative](#) and the [Writing Studio](#) to help UMKC graduate students meet their writing goals. This partnership will help students focus on theses, dissertations, and other writing prompts, with an emphasis on the nexus of writing resources offered by UMKC all being in one place at one time. [Read more about Camp Write-A-Lot here.](#)

2024 AARI: Celebrating Gloria Tibbs with Food for the Soul

Feb. 19 saw UMKC’s annual African American Read-In, a hybrid event taking place both online and in-person for the first time since 2020. This celebration of African American literature was founded by Dr. Jerrie Cobb Scott, a member of the Black Caucus of the National Council of Teachers of English. Gloria Tibbs, a UMKC librarian until her retirement in 2021 and beloved mentor to many, founded the UMKC Libraries African American Read-In in 2010. We host our annual Read-In each February in memory of Gloria, who always referred to the event as “food



The first floor book display accompanying the 2024 AARI event.

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Shining a Light: Collaborating with Conservatory Students

In an effort to bring more attention to under-represented composers, the Music/Media department at UMKC Libraries' annual Shining a Light Concert is Mar. 5. This highlights the UMKC Libraries' collection of modern composers typically under-represented by mainstream music. The goal for this annual concert is to draw more students in to explore this unique collection by inviting Conservatory students to perform works from the collection and making it more accessible to everyone.

Digital Scholarship Services Welcomes New Staff Member in a New Role



Chyanne Sandoval-Williams, the new Digital Collaboration Specialist

Chyanne Sandoval-Williams joins Spencer Keralis and the Digital Scholarship Services team as the Digital Collaboration Specialist. In this newly created position, Sandoval-Williams is primarily responsible for managing the Digital Collaboration Studio space in Miller Nichols Library, providing basic support on specialized technology, assisting with workshops and other initiatives, and supervising student staffing. Sandoval-Williams approaches her new role with highly relevant experience as a lab manager and research assistant, and as a STEM educator through the iD Tech summer camp and after school program. She gained familiarity with library systems and processes in Circulation Services and holds a BS in Computer Science.

Welcome, Chyanne!



St. Charles City-County Library

Mid Rivers Mall Library Branch Opens



The Mid Rivers Mall Library Branch Location in the Mall

The St. Charles City-County Library announced an official open date for the temporary Mid Rivers Mall Branch. This location, which opened Jan. 22, 2024 provides continuity of library service during the Spencer Road library branch and Middendorf Kredell library branch renovations.

The space is located on the second floor of Mid Rivers Mall near Dillard's. The branch offers a small browsing collection; holds pickup; book drop; access to public computers and public access Wi-Fi; classes and events for adults, teens and children; and will provide printing & copying services.

“By opening this temporary new location, we reiterate our commitment to providing seamless service to our customers and also welcoming new ones who might not know what all the library has to offer,” said Jason Kuhl, Chief Executive Officer.

The Mid Rivers Mall Branch will host recurring events for the community including:

- Family Storytime on Mondays and Thursdays at 10:30 a.m.
- Where's Waldo Wednesday (all day)
- Board Game Nights on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month at 5 p.m.
- Plant Swaps on the second Saturday of each month at 11 a.m.



The small browsing collection and other amenities inside the new library branch location

Joplin Public Library

Permanent Storywalk™ Added in Library's Outdoor Classroom



A family enjoys reading the new Storywalk

In November of 2023, the Joplin Public Library celebrated the installation of a permanent Storywalk™ in its outdoor classroom. The installation followed several years of planning and temporary Storywalk projects in the same space, as well as in parks and along walking trails in Joplin.

The multi-year project began after Children's Librarian, Christina Matekel-Gibson and Library Director Jeana Gockley, saw a similar permanent Storywalk project at a local park in town and another at a nearby library in Pittsburg, Kansas. Children's Department staff had installed temporary Storywalks in its outdoor classroom area once per quarter for several years. However, the preparation that went into creating these signs was extensive. The signs were also very susceptible to weather-related damage. After sharing about the temporary Storywalks at a Library board meeting, Library Board Vice President, Emily Stanley, approached Gockley about her family donating toward a permanent Storywalk.

To move forward on the project, Barking Dog Exhibits was contacted and asked to provide quotes for its different types of Storywalks. Library staff opted for the all-metal signs due to the cleaner look and the fact that they would not need to supply the posts. Once funding was secured and the order placed, production and shipping of the Storywalk took approximately four months. After the Storywalk parts arrived in July 2023, Gockley and Matekel-Gibson worked together to map out sign placement in the Library's outdoor classroom. They then reached out to the Joplin Parks Department to see if the installation of the posts was a project they would be willing to assist with, as Matakel-Gibson had worked with them on a different Storywalk project in a local park a few years prior.

After visiting the Library several times to map out the project, Joplin Parks Department staff got to work digging the holes and installing the posts. This took approximately two weeks from first discussions to final installation. After the signs were installed, Library staff attached the twenty frames. Children's Department staff selected Julie Flett's picture book *We All Play* for its inaugural story due to its interactive elements and the fact that it coincided with Native American Heritage Month. Using Canva, staff created page templates with space for each two-page spread as well as a conversation or movement prompt at the bottom. Because the book is so interactive, most of the prompts encouraged families to imitate the featured animal's movements or sounds. Two copies of *We All Play* were purchased, then the books were deconstructed, and each two-page spread was double-laminated. After that, the pages were placed on larger prompt pages and everything laminated together. The finished pages were then inserted between two acrylic inserts and fitted into each Storywalk frame.



Children's Librarian Christina Matekel-Gibson prepares to cut the ribbon

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Storywalk donors (from left to right) Emily, Marianne, Logan, and Reid Stanley

With the Storywalk complete, Lori Crockett, the Library's Public Relations/Marketing assistant, reached out to the Joplin Area Chamber of Commerce to coordinate a ribbon cutting for the new feature and issued a press release announcing the event to the public.

On November 13, the Library officially launched the Storywalk with a ribbon cutting ceremony, a few short remarks by Chamber leadership and Children's Librarian Christina Matekel-Gibson, and a few related activities for the families in attendance. Project donors Logan, Emily, Reid and Marianne Stanley were in attendance and honored for their generosity in funding the new Storywalk.

Black History Fair Features Storytelling and Community Partnerships

Joplin Public Library hosted its fourth-annual Black History Fair on Saturday, February 10. This-all ages event included a storytelling presentation by Janice "Mama" Katambwa as well as informational tables hosted by community members and organizations. The goal of this yearly event is to highlight the Black history in Joplin as well as the present-day work being done to honor that history and uplift the Black community. Ninety individuals took part in the festivities.

Janice "Mama" Katambwa describes herself as the "storyteller who puts the audience to work," and audience participation was significant. Katambwa began her presentation with a group singalong of "This Little Light of Mine" and taught the audience the Swahili word "harambee," meaning "pull together." These songs acted as a thesis statement for the stories, which focused on the importance of working together. Her first story titled, "Why Dogs Chase After Cars,"

included humor, costumes, instruments, and plenty of audience participation. For her second story, she pulled members of the audience to help tell a story featuring Anansi, the trickster spider famous in West African mythology.

Following her presentation, participants visited informational booths hosted by community members and organizations, including the Emancipation Park Days Committee, the Boys and Girls Club, Langston Hughes Cultural Society, George Washington Carver National Monument, and more. The booths included information on the history of Emancipation Day in Joplin, women in the Civil Rights movement, efforts to build a park in a historically Black neighborhood, and more.



Janice "Mama" Katambwa interacts with audience members as she tells a story



Black History Fair booth



The Missouri Library Association,
Columbia, MO,
est. 1900, is the Missouri State Chapter
of the American Library Association,
Chicago, IL

MO INFO

Newsletter of the Missouri Library Association

MO INFO (ISSN 0884-2205) is published six times/year (mid-January, March, May, July, September, and November). We can be reached at moinfo@molib.org.

You can find this and back issues of *MO INFO* on the MLA membership webpage: molib.org/Mo-Info-Archives

The newsletter is put together by MO INFO Subcommittee of the MLA Media and Publications Committee:

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