Greetings, fellow MLA Members!

I’m continually impressed by the stories I hear from the libraries and library employees in our organization. One page is hardly enough to describe all of the incredible events and work occurring within MLA, but below are a few highlights of particular note:

- MACRL hosted a pair of spring webinars focused on marketing - one April 16 on outreach and one May 14 on internal advocacy.
- YSCI held their annual Spring Training on April 26.
- The joint ACLU lawsuit with MLA and MASL is finally moving forward, with the state as an additional defendant and requests for written discovery as the next stage.
- The Legislative Committee and Legislative Chair, Cody Croan, have been keeping us informed and running advocacy campaigns relating to HB 2468 and HB 2498, both of which would require elections for library boards.
- Cody Croan and MASL President, Tom Bober, will be representing Missouri at the ALA Law for Librarians training at the end of May.
- President-Elect, Rachelle Brandel, and myself will be representing Missouri at the Chapter Leaders Forum at ALA in June.
- Our colleagues in MASL participated with ALA in providing testimony for the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights.
- The Intellectual Freedom Committee was nominated for the Robert B. Downs Intellectual Freedom Award. (The letter of recommendation may be the easiest thing I’ve ever written!).
- The You Belong Committee’s proposal for an IMLS Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian grant made it through the first round, inviting them to submit a full application. Fingers crossed!

In addition to those highlights, planning for the 2024 Annual Conference is in full swing, and I’m excited to join Stephanie Shade, Michael Engleman, and their amazing Conference Committee in Kansas City. This year we will be celebrating the ways that Missouri libraries “Innovate, Integrate, and Inspire.” This theme feels particularly relevant as libraries move through challenging times while simultaneously inspiring our communities and each other. Put September 25-27 on your calendar now, and consider submitting a proposal to share the successes and experiences that you and your library have seen this year.

The excitement of the annual conference of course couldn’t happen without the incredible work of our volunteers behind the scenes. We have a contract for our location in 2025 but need you to help make the event happen! If you live in St. Louis, please consider the opportunity of being a conference coordinator. Past Chairs and the MLA Board are available for support with a wealth of information to pass along, and it’s a great way to fully engage with an event we all benefit from.

Thank you for all the work you continually do for Missouri libraries! If you have any questions, concerns, or interest in becoming more involved, please feel free to reach out to me directly.

Kimberly Moeller
MLA President 2024
mlapresident@molib.org
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MLA Conference 2024
Announcing Theme, Session Proposal Form, and Early Bird Registration

The 2024 conference theme is Innovate, Integrate, and Inspire: Crafting the Future Library Experience.

We are focused on the future - using our skills and talents to create new, innovative ways to engage with our communities and each other! Crafting our future libraries can mean a broad range of things: from how we use emerging technologies in our day to day, to fostering libraries as ‘third places’, to helping our communities regain literacy skills, to building diverse, inclusive work forces. Truly, the sky is the limit!

The session proposal form is available at molib.org/Annual-Conference

Stay tuned! Follow @molibconf for more exciting info!
Sincerely, The 2024 Missouri Library Association Conference Committee
K.C.I EXPO CENTER | 11730 N.W. AMBASSADOR DR | KANSAS CITY, MO 64153
## 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<th>Event</th>
<th>Sponsor</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 15</td>
<td>12 pm</td>
<td>Connecting with Local Government Officials - How Libraries Add Value</td>
<td>Montana State Library</td>
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<td>May 16</td>
<td>9 am</td>
<td>Planning, Measuring, and Sharing Your Program’s Impact</td>
<td>Candid Learning</td>
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<td>May 16</td>
<td>2 pm</td>
<td>Supporting Healthy Communities: Public Library Responses to the Opioid Crisis</td>
<td>WebJunction</td>
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<td>May 16</td>
<td>3 pm</td>
<td>Getting More Books in More Hands</td>
<td>Demco</td>
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<td>May 17</td>
<td>11 am</td>
<td>Idea Lab Balancing Tech in Summer Reading</td>
<td>Libraries for Digital Equity</td>
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<td>May 18</td>
<td>1 pm</td>
<td>Time to THRIVE Summit</td>
<td>ALA</td>
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<td>May 20</td>
<td>1 pm</td>
<td>Combining Creativity, Civic Mindedness, and Belonging to Motivate Children to Read and Learn</td>
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<td>May 20</td>
<td>1:30 pm</td>
<td>Know &amp; Go: The Shifting Stacks: Digital Horizons and Future Forecasts for Libraries</td>
<td>Amigos Library Services</td>
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<td>May 21</td>
<td>12 pm</td>
<td>Telling Your Story: Simple Steps to Build Your Nonprofit's Brand</td>
<td>TechSoup</td>
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<td>May 21</td>
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<td>Page-Turning Picture Books</td>
<td>Booklist</td>
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<td>May 21</td>
<td>2 pm</td>
<td>Community Conversations for Election 2024</td>
<td>Libraries Learn</td>
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<td>May 22</td>
<td>12 pm</td>
<td>10-Step Budgeting Process (Propel Nonprofits)</td>
<td>Propel Nonprofits</td>
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<td>May 22</td>
<td>12 pm</td>
<td>Keeping Your Information Safe with Centralized Security Services</td>
<td>TechSoup</td>
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<td>May 22</td>
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<td>Partnering with the National Library Service to Provide Materials and Services to People with Print Disabilities</td>
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<td>May 22</td>
<td>1 pm</td>
<td>Grantseeking Solo: Secure Awards with Limited Staff</td>
<td>GrantStation</td>
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<td>May 22</td>
<td>2 pm</td>
<td>Cardholder signup policies: Access in practice</td>
<td>WebJunction</td>
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<td>May 23</td>
<td>1 pm</td>
<td>Introduction to Standardized Rights Statements</td>
<td>DPLA</td>
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<td>May 23</td>
<td>1 pm</td>
<td>Introduction to proposal writing</td>
<td>Candid Learning</td>
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<td>May 28</td>
<td>1 pm</td>
<td>Best Book Club Picks</td>
<td>(Booklist)</td>
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<td>May 28</td>
<td>1 pm</td>
<td>Orientation to the Constitution Annotated</td>
<td>FDLP</td>
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<td>May 29</td>
<td>12 pm</td>
<td>Quiet Leadership: Foster Your Identity as an Introverted or Quiet Leader to Inspire Beyond Words</td>
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<td>May 30</td>
<td>12 pm</td>
<td>Earthquake Preparedness</td>
<td>FAIC</td>
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<td>May 30</td>
<td>1 pm</td>
<td>Exploring Census Data Webinar Series: Minority Businesses &amp; Equitable Data</td>
<td>US Census</td>
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<td>June 4</td>
<td>9 am</td>
<td>Missouri History Resources</td>
<td>MOREnet</td>
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<td>June 6</td>
<td>10 am</td>
<td>Metadata Principles and Practices: Metadata Basics</td>
<td>Amigos Library Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 6</td>
<td>12 pm</td>
<td>Practical Strategies for the Care of Film and Glass Negatives</td>
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<td>June 6</td>
<td>1 pm</td>
<td>Audiobooks for Youth</td>
<td>(Booklist)</td>
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<td>June 10</td>
<td>1:30 pm</td>
<td>Know &amp; Go: Effective Committee and Board Service</td>
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<td>Metadata Principles and Practices: Metadata Standards and Types</td>
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<td>June 10</td>
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<td>8mm Film Digitization and Preservation with Robert Anen</td>
<td>Long Island Library</td>
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<td>June 12</td>
<td>1 pm</td>
<td>Host a Repair Café in Your Library</td>
<td>PLA</td>
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<td>June 12</td>
<td>1 pm</td>
<td>Making Connections: Strategies for Effective, Engaging One-Shot Library Lessons</td>
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<td>June 17</td>
<td>1:30 pm</td>
<td>Know &amp; Go: Expanding Library Services for Justice-Involved Patrons</td>
<td>Amigos Library Services</td>
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<td>June 18</td>
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<td>Data storytelling 101</td>
<td>WebJunction</td>
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<td>June 18</td>
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<td>Digital Resources to Help Deal with Cyberbullying and Safety</td>
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<td>June 20</td>
<td>8 am</td>
<td>3D Printing and Design</td>
<td>MOREnet</td>
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<td>August 14</td>
<td>10 am</td>
<td>Strategies &amp; Partnerships: Insights to Build Collaborative Collections, Part One</td>
<td>Amigos Library Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 21</td>
<td>10 am</td>
<td>Managing &amp; Sustaining Collaborative Collections, Part Two</td>
<td>Amigos Library Services</td>
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<td>June 27-30</td>
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<td>ALA Annual Conference &amp; Exhibition (San Diego, CA)</td>
<td>ALA</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 25-27</td>
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<td>2024 MLA Conference: Innovate, Integrate, Inspire: Crafting the Future Library Experience (Kansas City, MO)</td>
<td>MLA</td>
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</table>
Meet this issue’s Featured Library Employee for the Missouri Library Association, Peter Neely!

What is your name, your library, and your role at the library?
My name is Peter Neely and I work at Stafford Library, Columbia College and my official title is the Digital Services Librarian, although I perform a variety of other tasks as well!

What originally got you interested in working at a library?
A passion for learning about a wide variety of topics..

What keeps you coming back every day?
I quickly found that I enjoy helping students find obscure resources for their research, assist in getting their papers to print correctly, or simply help users connect to our resources so that they can complete their assignments and succeed. Seeing their appreciation is satisfaction. I also enjoy my coworkers. We are a small team, but work well together!

What's challenging about your work?
Working with a small team means we all have multiple tasks and filling multiple roles that we are juggling at the same time. It is genuinely a unique challenge to ensure we are providing a quality service to our community with the resources we have available.

Has your work made you either curious, or passionate, or awestruck about something?
It’s old news by now, but I am continually impressed by how quickly the academic environment has changed since the COVID-19 pandemic.

Who is one of your mentors?
One of my recurring patrons is an inspiration. I enjoy helping this older gentleman and he has such great wisdom to share that sits outside of academia and it is refreshing to see things through the eyes of a student in his mid-70s and learn their understanding and hear their experiences.

What have you read or watched lately that you enjoyed?
I am a big fan of local folklore and history of the geography and people of the Ozarks and just finished reading several Vance Randolph books on the subject.

Is there anything else you'd like to share with us?
I am a life-long resident of Columbia, Missouri and spend my free time either hanging out on the trails with my dog or collecting and reading tabletop roleplaying books.

Who’s inspiring you at your library? Nominate them!
Nominated 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!
MLA Needs You!

We are nearing the time for the Nominating Committee to select a roster of qualified candidates to run for the MLA Executive Board.

In 2019, I accepted an invitation to run for a Member-at-Large position on the MLA Board, not really knowing what to expect, and completely intimidated by the list of library directors and career leaders that sat on the board. Fast-forward, and I find myself now wrapping up my fifth (!) year on the board. I've learned a great deal about the organization itself. I've also felt the inspirational power of a group of people working towards common goals, and I have met many amazing people doing great work for libraries across our state.

If you are feeling called to enhance your skills, build new relationships and have a direct impact in the direction of this organization, please consider volunteering to run for a board position. The board meets virtually just four times per year, plus once in person at the annual conference. Member-at-Large positions are just a two-year commitment, and perfect for anyone that wants to work just one to three hours a month. The MLA President-Elect runs for a three-year term, shadowing and learning in the first year, and guiding from the back seat as needed in the third year. This year, we are also looking for an ALA Councilor-Elect. This person will spend the first part of their three-year term shadowing the current ALA Councilor until they fully take over those duties after ALA Annual 2025. All ALA travel expenses are paid for by MLA.

To learn more about any of these positions, please reach out to me (otter@molib.org) any current board member, or consult the MLA Handbook. This is your organization, and there's never been a better, more historical time to be involved! Recommendations must be approved by the current board in July, so reach out today.

- Otter Bowman, 2024 MLA Past President and Nominating Committee Chair

ALA Unveils New Website

Have you visited the American Library Association website this month?

For over a year the ALA has been working to create a fresh, modern, accessible, and more intuitive experience, that was launched on May 1. Visitors can swiftly locate essential resources, featuring:

- Refreshed design with improved navigation
- Dynamic calendar features to keep you in the loop about upcoming events, learning, and engagement opportunities
- Enhanced Awards and Grants interface
- …And so much more!

Stop by and explore!

ALA Membership Team
MLA Awards Committee

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 30, 2024, 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 (molib.org/Awards/), 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:

MLA Awards Committee
Taylor Bequette, 2024 Chair: teens@little-dixie.lib.mo.us
Meagan Parrett, Past Chair: mnparrett5@gmail.com

Members:
Eric Peterson, ericpetersen@kclibrary.org
Jennifer France, jenniferfrance@gmail.com
Ex-officio Member: Otter Bowman, otter@molib.org

Ronald G. Bohley Scholarship Now Accepting Applications

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
Highlight 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.

Marie Concannon Receives American Library Association Award
Marie Concannon, head of government information and data archive at the MU Libraries, is the recipient of the 2024 James Bennett Childs Award. This honor, which is awarded by the Government Documents Round Table of the American Library Association, is a tribute to an individual who has made a lifetime and significant contribution to the field of documents librarianship.

From the award letter: “The Awards Committee noted that the support letters for your nomination focused on your dedication to the profession and your lifetime of service. Your role in Government Documents practice has been exemplary. Your work with Prices and Wages by Decade has been beneficial not only to the government information community, but to the wider community as well. It is a privilege to honor you with this award for your years of dedication and service to Government Information.”

Katie Rahman Hired as Systems Librarian
The MU Libraries are pleased to announce that Katie Rahman has been hired as the systems librarian. Katie has a Master of Library and Information Science from San Jose State University and a Master of Arts in East Asian Studies from the University of Minnesota. She has previously worked as a systems librarian and a systems manager at Wyoming State Library. As systems manager, she oversaw the integrated library system, and integrated third-party products and the online catalog.

(Note: MO Info accidentally included the correct picture with incorrect information in a previous issue. Our apologies to Katie!)
Amigos Member Benefits News

Catch Up on DOAJ's Data, Work and Projects in Newly Released Annual Highlights 2023 Report
The Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ), an Amigos partner, has released an 'Annual Highlights' report outlining highlighted data, work, and projects from 2023. In 2023, DOAJ celebrated significant milestones and continued to develop their organization and service to keep pace with the changing landscape.

Amigos partnership with DOAJ simplifies the process of library contributions for DOAJ and facilitates libraries providing financial support for DOAJ's vital work and at discounted member rates.

Member Discount News

Looking for Deals on Library Supplies? Save With Amigos Discount Direct!
Part of Amigos Member Discount Services, Discount Direct, saves members money by providing the opportunity to order library supplies and consulting services directly from vendors at negotiated discounts. View this article to learn how to save on Biblioteca, DEMCO, Gaylord, Skilltype, and other vendors.

Illuminate Your Collection with Creative Shelving Tips and Must-Haves From Demco
As more Americans read for pleasure, libraries are getting creative to help patrons discover their next great find. Approaching library shelving in a merchandised way allows readers to browse categories and choose titles and covers that are appealing to them. Demco’s shelving products will help inspire and start the process of prioritizing essentials to refresh library spaces and help patrons find what they didn’t know they were looking for.

Now through June 30, 2024, Amigos member libraries can save 25% on select products for outright purchase through Duke University Press (DUP)

DUP also offers the opportunity to support open access through Demography, the flagship publication of the Population Association of America.

Continuing Education News

Missed “Leading. Partnering. Connecting. The Amigos Member Conference 2024”? Register for the recording!
If you missed the May 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. Beginning with the opening keynote, "Empowering Libraries: Strategies for Talent Development, Collection Enhancement, and Community Engagement," from Roosevelt Weeks, Director of Libraries at Austin Public Library, the LexisNexis sponsored conference also included the Annual Member Business Meeting and several concurrent sessions on a variety of topics.

This conference along with all Amigos online topical conferences, Know & Go sessions, Community Conversations, and NISO member webinars are free to Amigos members.

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.

Continues on next page
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

Earn Your Micro-Credential with Amigos!
Amigos has opened registration for the sessions that make up the Metadata Principles and Practices Micro-Credentialing Series and the Metadata Management Tools Micro-Credentialing Series. To complete a micro-credential series and earn a certificate, attendees’ must complete specified courses and a capstone project. View the Amigos micro-credential program page to learn more about both series and their sessions.

Many libraries expect their staff to continually seek out learning opportunities. The Amigos micro-credential program provides staff at member libraries that opportunity. A micro-credential is a short, competency-based recognition that allows a library staff member to demonstrate mastery in a particular area and to record that mastery on a resume or CV.

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: The Shifting Stacks: Digital Horizons and Future Forecasts for Libraries
- Know & Go: Effective Committee and Board Service
- Ensuring Trust in the Scholarly Record: How Libraries and Publishers support Research Integrity
- Know & Go: Expanding Library Services for Justice-Involved Patrons
- Strategies & Partnerships: Insights to Build Collaborative Collections, Part One
- Managing & Sustaining Collaborative Collections, Part Two
- The Importance of Metadata in AI

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

- Metadata Principles and Practices: Metadata Basics
- Strategic Communication Planning for Libraries
- Metadata Principles and Practices: Metadata Standards and Types
- Metadata Principles and Practices: Customization and Exchange, Transformation and Migration
- Metadata Principles and Practices: Metadata Relationships
- Metadata Principles and Practices: Micro-Credentialing & Capstone Project
- Metadata Management Tools: Introduction to MarcEdit
- Metadata Management Tools: Introduction to OpenRefine
- Metadata Management Tools: Programming with Python and PyMARC
- Metadata Management Tools: Micro-Credentialing & Capstone Project
UMKC Libraries Connecting in New Ways With Students, the Community

Library Renovation for Student Success
We’re honored to announce that UMKC has received a gift of two million dollars to assist with the renovation of the fourth floor of the Miller Nichols Library. The gift was received in the form of a three-year challenge grant from the Miller Nichols Charitable Foundation.

As academic libraries evolve, they increasingly add ways to draw students in with related services including academic support, labs, technology rooms, lecture halls and classrooms. The goal of this project is to relocate student success programs to the fourth floor of the Miller Nichols Library. The reconfigured floor will offer an updated space that is flexible, inviting, and welcoming and serve to attract and retain students by connecting them with support that meets their academic needs. Our objective is for students to be more successful while they are at UMKC, as well as after graduation. The project will result in a unique building that brings together our library, classroom learning environments, an automated storage and retrieval system, and student success services.

The UMKC community can expect changes to begin after commencement this May. The fourth floor of the library, currently the silent study floor, will close for renovation in late May and reopen with brand new spaces for student success programs and open study in fall 2025. The second floor of the library will become the new silent study floor, from June 2024.

The Libraries wish to extend our thanks to the Miller Nichols Charitable Foundation for their gift. We are grateful for your past and continued support of UMKC Libraries.

2024 Shining A Light Concert Draws Attention to Unique Collection
The Shining a Light Collection was founded in 2020 with 55 scores and has grown to include nearly 200 composers and over 900 musical works. Since the concert, UMKC Conservatory students have renewed interest in the collection and have increased the connectivity between the Libraries and Conservatory, setting the foundation for further future collaboration.

The community was welcomed at the one-hour concert and reception to hear fresh, new music performed by up-and-coming musicians.

Continues on next page
Camp Write-A-Lot Partners with UMKC Writing Studio and UMKC Graduate Writing Initiative to Boost Graduate Writing

Camp Write-A-Lot is coming up this June. It is a week of all-day writing programming for UMKC graduate students focused on the production of text, held in the Miller Nichols Library.

The UMKC Graduate Writing Initiative, the Writing Studio, and the Libraries are partnering to help UMKC graduate students meet their writing goals by providing the space, time, and support to make substantial writing progress or complete their projects. Graduate students will spend much of their time working on their theses, dissertations, or other writing projects. Learning experiences such as panel discussions and workshops will be scheduled each day. The partnership between these three UMKC institutions promises to be an effective one and to establish potential future collaborations in the same vein.

Jefferson County Library

Dive In!
Patrons enjoyed an aquatic adventure throughout the month of March at Jefferson County Library through the district-wide promotion “Dive In: Exploring the World of Water.”

“JCL staff poured a tremendous amount of effort into ‘Dive In,’” said Library Services and Outreach Coordinator Cole Sawyer. “And it paid off. We saw a 26% increase in program attendance compared to our last promotion, ‘Let Freedom Read’ in October. I am so happy our patrons found a wealth of opportunity to learn, play, and explore the world of water throughout the month of March.”

Highlights included an interactive seminar, “Who Messed Up the Mississippi?” by the Mastodon State Historic Site, a “Wave of Change” created from recycled objects, and a visit from the St. Louis Aquarium, which drew 163 people across three branches. In total, JCL staff planned 58 programs and activities for the promotion.

“Personally, I thoroughly enjoyed attending the 'Fishing for Beginners' class at the Arnold branch,” Sawyer said. “Now, I'm eager to grab a fishing pole soon—they're available at our Northwest, Windsor, and Arnold branches."

Prizes included bracelets tracking live sea animals around the world, as well as $100 gift certificates to places like the St. Louis Zoo, an adventure company, and more.

The district-wide promotions began in 2022, as a way to highlight the unity of the library district and celebrate together. Previous themes have included Women’s History Month, “pARTy: Celebrate the Arts,” “Money Smart,” and more.

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Staff are currently planning for the next promotion, “Mysteries in the Stacks,” which takes place in May to honor the birthday of Arthur Conan Doyle.

**ScannX Book ScanCenter**

In a step toward the library’s vision to be “a hub of tradition and innovation, cultural preservation and promotion, and equitable access,” the Genealogy Department of the Northwest Branch of the Jefferson County Library has acquired a ScannX Book ScanCenter through an LSTA grant.

“In the brief time we've had it, it has become an invaluable tool with usage versatility beyond our expectations,” said Ginger Brickey, head of the Genealogy and Local History Department at Jefferson County Library.

The scanner enables the digitization of materials through a process designed to prevent the physical damage that a typical scanner can incur. The scanner’s V-shaped cradle holds the book open at an angle, mimicking the way a book naturally lays open and thus minimizing stress on the book's spine and pages. Its high-resolution image sensors and adjustable settings capture clear images without the deteriorating effects of bright light and heat from traditional scanners or photocopiers.

“We have the most extensive genealogy collection in Jefferson County, so it's crucial that we maintain our historical resources while ensuring accessibility for researchers locally and beyond,” said Cole Sawyer, Library Services and Outreach Coordinator. “With the integration of technology, we're thrilled to enhance our capabilities in fulfilling these vital purposes.”

Library users can send images electronically, archive for online viewing, and print physical copies.

"Acquiring this book scanner has been a tremendous leap forward to providing our staff and visitors with the most up-to-date archiving and data-saving technology,” Brickey said. “I am excited to build public programs around its use.”

This project is a coordinated effort of the Genealogy Department, Northwest Branch Manager, IT Network Administrator, Accounting Department, and Assistant Director for Library Services. *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.*

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**Three-Question Trivia: Do you know?**

1) What 19th century president joined his cabinet members in fighting a fire in the Library of Congress?

2) Are there more libraries or McDonald’s restaurants in the U.S.?

3) The Library of Congress is the world’s largest library. Where is the second largest?

*Answers on Page 12*
Ten Year Old Patron’s Idea Inspires Pokémon Party
The Joplin Public Library Children’s Department hosted its first-ever Pokémon Party on Saturday, March 23. This event was geared towards kids ages 6-12 and included a variety of crafts, games and card game playing and trading. The event drew a crowd of nearly 180 excited Pokémon fans of all ages.

This program was inspired by an excited ten-year-old patron named Lincoln. He approached the Children’s Librarian with the program suggestion along with activity ideas and backup plans.

"When Lincoln suggested this program to me along with fully fleshed out ideas and activity suggestions, I knew we had to find a way to make this happen," said Children’s Librarian Christina Matekel-Gibson. “Incorporating community interests into our programming helps us to realize our vision of being a welcoming community where learning and connection grow and lives are enriched.”

Activities included a Pokéball painting, a Pokémon scavenger hunt with trainer badges to collect, DIY trading cards, TCG (trading card game) playing and trading, a photo booth and more. The attendees had so much fun that they even stayed to help clean up (and offered plenty of activity suggestions for next year)!

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Health & Wellness Items Expand Library of Things Collection

Joplin Public Library launched a new Health & Wellness category as part of their Library of Things collection, thanks to a recently awarded Bramlage & Willcoxon Foundation Grant.

Library of Things is a collection of non-traditional materials including tools, games, kitchen items, electronics and more — all available to check out for free from the Library. The collection has previously included items in four topic areas - Arts & Crafts, Tools & Tech, Kitchen Gear, Fun & Games. The heart of the collection includes items that library users would only potentially need once in a while or expensive items individuals could benefit from borrowing to test before an investment is made.

Thanks to the grant award, over twenty new items were purchased to create a Health and Wellness category, including such items as a professional grade carpet cleaner, a blood pressure monitor, light therapy lamp, exercise equipment, and more.

Nearly 7,000 Join MCPL’s 2024 Winter Reading Challenge

From January 15 to March 15, thousands of Mid-Continent Public Library customers embraced “Literary Love” during the Library’s annual Winter Reading Challenge. The program encourages adults to reconnect with the love of reading, and this year, focused on titles in the books (of any genre) during the two months earned as the chance to win the grand prize— a gift basket Library Lovers program, which grants members author talks, and Library-themed swag.

More than 6,990 MCPL customers participated in the 2024 Challenge, and 5,424 completed it, earning their “Literary Love” mug. Sign-ups and completions for this year’s program rose an unbelievable 36 percent and 60 percent, respectively, from the previous year, and more than 37,000 titles were logged by participants.

In addition to reading, Challenge participants enjoyed in-person books groups and events, as well as virtual programs through the MCPL’s Winter Reading Challenge Facebook page. More details about the 2024 Winter Reading Challenge can be found at mymcpl.org/WinterReading.

Continues on next page
MCPL Sends Local Student to National Spelling Bee
On Saturday, March 2, 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 (formerly the Jackson-Clay County 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 over Memorial Day weekend.

After an astounding 22 rounds, Blue Springs 8th grader Garrett Fry emerged as the MCPL Bee champion, correctly spelling the word macushla, which means darling. This is the second year in a row that Fry has won the regional bee and will attend the National Spelling Bee in Maryland this May. In addition to hosting the qualifying event, MCPL is covering travel expenses for Fry and his caregiver. The Scripps National Spelling Bee will be broadcast on live TV across the country.

Facing the Future: New Library Series Explores Emerging Tech
On Saturday, April 13, Mid-Continent Public Library hosted the first in a series of programs exploring emerging technologies and their wide-ranging effects on everyday life. Held at the Auditorium at MCPL’s Woodneath Library Center, the first event featured acclaimed author and researcher Tobias Rose-Stockwell who spoke about his new book, Outrage Machine: How Tech Amplifies Discontent, Disrupts Democracy—And What We Can Do about It.

A writer whose previous work has been featured on major news outlets, such as CNN, BBC, and The Atlantic, Rose-Stockwell’s Outrage Machine is the culmination of 15 years of research and takes a deep look at how the internet has evolved and why social media fans the flames of public outrage. It also glances backward, examining how new forms of media have caused similar disruption throughout history and potential solutions for a brighter path forward. Attendees of the April 13 presentation received a free copy of Outrage Machine, and the event was followed by a book signing.

The next presentation in the Facing the Future series will be held on Thursday, June 20, with New York Times tech reporter Kashmir Hill. Hill’s presentation will focus on the ethics of emerging technologies, and attendees will also receive a free copy of her book, Your Face Belongs to Us, while supplies last. As a reporter, Hill’s work has focused on privacy concerns in the tech space, and her book shines a light on the similar issue of facial recognition software and its implications for users across the globe.

To learn more about MCPL’s Facing the Future series, including upcoming events and related resources, visit mymcpl.org/FacingTheFuture.

This series was made possible by a generous grant from the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation.
One Book - One Community – One Read 2024
This year, the Springfield-Greene County Library selected *Remarkably Bright Creatures* as the One Read selection. The Library Center welcomed a full house for the One Read author visit on March 28. Author Shelby Van Pelt entertained over 400 guests with stories about her writing style, a possible upcoming movie, the unexpected success of the book and lastly, some octopus jokes. She also graciously signed many books after her presentation. The Library Center Branch Manager, Jessie East did a fabulous job interviewing Shelby. Other One Read events included a juried art show by Springfield Regional Arts Council members, Escape Room: Aquarium Exhibit, The Giant Pacific Octopus program by Wonders of Wildlife National Museum & Aquarium and even an Octopus Crochet project.

Springfield-Greene County ARPA Fund Updates
The Springfield-Greene County Library District received $10.5M in ARPA funds. The Board of Trustees has finalized the three projects. First up is the historic Midtown Carnegie Branch Library, which opened in 1905. ARPA funds will help the district receive some much-needed upgrades, including a new entrance, HVAC systems, piping and a repaired elevator. This branch will close for approximately 10 months starting in May 2024.
A 500-seat auditorium will be added to The Library Center, the system’s flagship branch. This facility will be used for library-sponsored programming and community use. The construction team will break ground in September, and the auditorium will open in early 2026. Additional branch updates will include a new weather-safe front entrance and indoor book drop.

Lastly, a new Republic Branch Library will be constructed on the existing site. The plans for the new facility have not been finalized, but it will feature a business center, maker space and meeting rooms. Once the new facility is finished, the current library will be razed. This project will open in late 2026.

**Taylor Swift Friendship Party on April 19**

Over 70 people came out for the Taylor Swift Friendship Bracelet Party. The crowd included parents and kids, teens and adults. Staff led trivia and made pictograms while everyone listened to Taylor Swift. One mom said that her daughter had been looking forward to the event so much that it had been her motivator all week. Mom said her daughter got up easily in the morning with no fuss because she knew the Taylor Swift party was that night. Lastly, a mom of three boys said she had been looking forward to this and that she needed this event as it was a great way to get out of the house and engage with other fans—and her boys had a blast making friendship bracelets!

**Local History & Genealogy Department Receives Award**

On Wednesday, April 23, 2024, Local History & Genealogy staff were recognized by the Rachel Donelson Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution for their work on the Library’s Digital Archive. At the award event, each Local History staff member was presented with a certificate and recognized for their contribution to preserving and maintaining the “outstanding collection related to Ozarks History and Genealogy for 21st Century Researchers.”
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