

MO INFO

Newsletter of the Missouri Library Association

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President's Column

As a long-time public library reference librarian (turned library director), the Public Library Conference is without a doubt my favorite conference. It takes place every two years and has the most relevant program offerings in one place for public library staff. I've been fortunate enough to attend conferences in several large cities. This year's conference, PLA 2022, was held in Portland, Oregon, home of Powell Books, the Pearl District, and Multnomah Falls.

The last PLA conference was in Nashville in early 2020. With so much canceled over the last two years, the public library world was out in full force with 4,000 librarians in attendance. This year's conference was as relevant as ever with lots of terrific programming pertaining to addressing censorship and serving LGBTQ+, multiethnic, and other vulnerable populations.

The opening session keynote speaker was a woman I had never heard of, but might just be my new hero. Her name is Luvvie Ajayi Jones, author of *Professional Troublemaker: The Fear-Fighter Manual*. What she said was so important that it made a distinct impression on me. According to Ajayi Jones, professional troublemakers are people "who commit themselves to elevate the rooms they are in," stating the impact we can make in the world starts with the people in the room with us. She freely admits "as humans we are naturally hesitant to put ourselves out there for fear of putting ourselves at risk." She encouraged the audience to ask themselves 3 things:

"Do I mean it?"
"Can I defend it?"
"Can I say it thoughtfully?"

As librarians, she reminded us the things we are insisting upon are also changing lives. We stand up in uncomfortable moments, start hard discussions, and commit to being courageous.

I believe librarians ARE some of the best professional troublemakers out there, challenging norms and speaking up for the marginalized. It made me appreciate my profession all the more and want to tell you how proud I am of US.

Claudia Young
MLA President
mlapresident@molib.org
Missouri River Regional Library
Jefferson City, MO. 65101
573-634-6064 ext. 245



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MLA Awards Nominations Due June 29

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 a Missouri Library Award! The deadline to submit a nomination this year is June 29, 2022, and the process is easy!

Missouri Library Association Awards: Awards Decided By MLA Awards Committee

The MLA Award categories, which link to descriptions & application details, are listed 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)
- [Missouri Author Award](#) (author from Missouri)
- [MLA Literary Award](#) (book about Missouri; awarded by sub-committee; different deadline)
- [Ronald G. Bohley Award](#)

Go to the MLA Awards website, fill out the award form and click submit. It's that easy! molib.org/awards/more-mla-awards/

Calendar of Events

Oh, the things you can experience! These opportunities link to descriptions, availability, any registration fees, and possible changes. All times CDT and subject to change.

Date	Time CT	Event	Sponsor
May 16	12-1 pm	From Your Shelves to the World: Unlock the Power of Your Special Collections	<i>Library Journal</i>
	1:30-2:30 pm	Pivoting to Online Instruction	Amigos Library Services
May 17	9-10 am	Canva Demo and Q & A: Ask Questions. Get Answers from an Amateur Designer and Professional Librarian	Indiana State Library
	1-1:30 pm	The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's Database for Holocaust Survivor and Victim Names	FDLP
	3-4 pm	SimplyE @ Amigos: An Overview and Demonstration	Amigos Library Services
May 17-18	10 am-12 pm	Introduction to Project Management	Amigos Library Services
May 17-19		Contested Collections: Grappling With History and Forging Pathways for Repatriation	UCLA Library
May 18	10-11 am	Library Board Recruitment and Retention	MALA
May 18-19	1-3 pm	Event Planning 101	Amigos Library Services
May 19	10-11 am	Events in a Digital Age: How to Maximize Offline Events in an Online World	Firespring
	11 am - 12 pm	Design for S.C.H.I.T	<i>Training Magazine</i>
	7-8 am	Knowledge Rights 21 Webinar: The Empty Library – the Urgency of Solutions to Unsustainable eBook Markets	IFLA
May 23	3-4 pm	Exhausted by Paperwork – How to Handle Administrative Work as a Supervisor	GovLoop
May 23-24		Providing Multilingual and Multicultural Health Information	National Library of Medicine
May 24	12-1 pm	Mobile Marketing Tips for Every Generation	Firespring
	2-3 pm	Celebrate Water During Earth Science Week	STARnet
	2-3 pm	Book Challenges and Intellectual Freedom: Proactive Planning for Public Libraries	WebJunction
May 25	9-10 am	All About LibraryReads	Indiana State Library
	11 am	It's a Sign of the Times: Cultivating Attention through Intentional Engagement	MACRL
	1-2 pm	Dealing with Change: Using Mindfulness to Respond in Difficult Situations	PCI Webinars
May 25-26	10 am-12 pm	Unpacking the ALA Committee on Diversity DEI Scorecard	Amigos Library Services
May 25-July 26	10-11 am	Introduction to Open Access (for Public Libraries)	<i>Library Journal</i>
May 26	10-11 am	Storytelling for Impact	Firespring
	12-1 pm	Understanding and Protecting Against Cyber Risk	Charity Village
	1-2 pm	Creating Closer Connections: Elevating Librarian Expertise and Support at the Point of Need	Lean Library
	1-2:30 pm	Peeling Back the Layers of an Independent Publishing House: DEIA, OA, & Flexible Collaborations	ASERL
	2-3 pm	Ready Access: Reentry Services for Decarcerated Populations at your Library	California Libraries Learn
June 1	12-1 pm	Info2Go! Library Programming in the Great Outdoors	Idaho Commission for Libraries
	1-2 pm	Representation in Children's Literature: From Audit to Action	ACRL
June 6	1:30-2:30 pm	Tech Tools and Apps for the Reference Desk	Amigos Library Services
June 7-9	10 am-12 pm	Managing and Editing Data: Regular Expressions	Amigos Library Services
	12-1 pm	How to Find Which Surveys Have the Data You Need	Census.gov
June 8	1-2 pm	Academic Library Marketing 101: Identifying Priorities, Creating a Budget, & Tailoring Your Message	Niche Academy
June 8-10	10 am-12 pm	Reference Management: A New Approach	Amigos Library Services
June 13	1:30-2:30 pm	Collaborating with Faculty	Amigos Library Services
June 14	2-3 pm	Break Free from Misinformation in an Escape Room	WebJunction
June 15	10 am-12 pm	Introduction to Health Literacy for Libraries	Amigos Library Services
June 16	10 am-12 pm	Media Literacy in Libraries	Amigos Library Services
	1-2 pm	Health Statistics on the Web	National Library of Medicine
June 21	1-2 pm	Lessons Learned: Engaging Teens in Evaluating Online Health Information	National Library of Medicine
June 23-28		Annual Conference & Exhibition (Washington, DC)	ALA
June 28-29	10 am-12 pm	Transparency in Library Communication	Amigos Library Services
June 29	2-3 pm	Applying the ALA COD DEI Scorecard to Hiring and Retention	MALA
Sept. 8		Amigos Online Conference	Amigos Library Services
Sept. 28-20		Missouri Library Association (Springfield, Mo.)	Missouri Library Association

Meet This Issue's Featured Library Employee for the Missouri Library Association, Mindy Schmidt!



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

Mindy Schmidt, St. Charles City County Library, Youth Paraprofessional; specializing in Teen and Tween services

I have worked for the library district for over sixteen years. I started out working nights and weekends at the circulation desk, which allowed me to be home during the day with my daughters.

I became a youth paraprofessional around six years ago and now work at the information desk assisting patrons. I also plan programs for teens and tweens, maintain the teen area and YA collection at our branch and work with other teen staff within the district on a variety of committees and projects.

What originally got you interested in working at a library?

Libraries have always been a magical place for me, to be able to take armloads of books home for free amazed me as a child. I have always been a reader, using books as my escape, and libraries and bookstores as a refuge. When I was younger I had considered becoming a librarian, however life happened and a degree didn't. Now, as an adult and a library employee, I truly understand what all the library can offer besides books.

What keeps you coming back every day?

The rewards and challenges of working with youth, working with my fellow employees and the love I have for our smaller general purpose branch, where we are able to work on a little bit of everything.

What's challenging about your work?

Before COVID, balancing outreach, projects, in-branch programming and desk duties was quite a challenge. Now, since we have been easing back into everything, it has been great to be able to rethink how I want to structure my time.

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

I love the relationships that form with the teens and tweens that come in regularly to the branch and attend programs, that is one of the best parts of my job.

I have become very passionate about making the library a welcoming place for all youth, not just the stereotypical bookworm. We have had the wonderful opportunity at the McClay Branch to serve a diverse group of teens that forced us to grow as individuals and expand our abilities as library staff.

Before COVID we had a fairly large group of teens that walked from the high school every day after school. They seemed to be a pretty intimidating group before we got to know them. Once we invested the time and effort to interact and actively engage with them every day, we could appreciate that they enjoyed the time and attention we gave them. They are still some of my very favorite teens.

Who is one of your mentors?

Personally, my four daughters; they are bold, passionate, and pursue opportunities that seem out of reach.

Professionally, I have worked with many people who have inspired me and I appreciate them all. Johnathon Shoff was one of the first people that I worked with when I started in YA. I try to model his laidback style and ease when working with teens. I admire his work ethic, sound advice, and his willingness to share ideas.

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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 read a lot of YA and Mindy McGinnis is one of my favorite authors. Her writing can be on the dark and gritty side, which I enjoy. I just finished "The Last Laugh", it is the final book of an intense duology that I had a hard time putting down. Her award winning novel "Heroine" was hands down one of my most enjoyed books that I read this year.

Currently I am watching Bridgerton season 2, as well as, Winning Time: The Rise of the Lakers, both are equally compelling in completely different ways.

We like reading about each other. Nominate someone as our next Featured Library Employee!



Examples could be:

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

Submit name(s) and contact information, along with place of employment, to Shannon Mawhiney at smawhiney@missouristate.edu. We'll do all the work of contacting; we just need you to connect us!



Congratulations! New Amigos Micro-Credential Certificate Recipients

Congratulations to the following two members for completing the requirements for the Electronic Resource Management [Micro-Credential](#) certificate!

- **Jessie London**, Texas Tech University
- **Alyne Rattler**, Northwest Arkansas Community College

Welcome New Amigos Staff! Cataloging & Metadata Trainer

We are excited to welcome **Sarah Matusz** and **George Leithner** to the Amigos Library Services staff! Sarah joins us as the new Cataloging and Metadata Trainer and George joins as the DevOps and Server Administrator.

Save the Date! September 8 is the next Amigos Online Conference

Save the date, Thursday, September 8, 2022 for the next Amigos Online Conference. For conference updates and more information visit the Amigos Online Conference homepage: amigos.org/node/670.

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DEI Audit Time? We've Got the Perfect Free Infobase Webinars Just For You!

Is your library preparing for a DEI audit? Join these free webinars from Amigos vendor partner Infobase!

Whether your institution is preparing for a DEI audit of your library collections, or you are looking for insights into how to begin approaching such a large project, this two-part webinar series can help. Come learn about the before and after of a successful DEI collection audit, from two college librarians who have just completed one.

Who Are We Missing? Diversity Audits to Assess Academic Library Collections

Session 2: Audit Complete: Now What? Thursday, May 19, 2022| 2 pm CDT

For registration information or to learn more about the presenters, visit amigos.org/node/7486.

Thinking of Finally Getting a *New York Times* Subscription? Sign Up Now, Get One Month Free!

Amigos Library Services offers academic and higher education libraries discount subscriptions to *The New York Times*. Published in New York City since 1851, *The New York Times* is an important source for obtaining reports, information, and opinions on topics ranging from politics, finance, health, science, culture, the arts, sports, and fashion in the U.S. and abroad.

One free month of *New York Times* access is available for new subscriptions starting in July: sign up for 12 months starting in July and receive access in June for free! Sign up now to get all of your free month - the sooner you place your order, the better!

More information, as well as a link to request a quote, can be found here: amigos.org/node/3995.

Continuing Education Opportunities

Missed a Conference? Register for Amigos Conference Archives

Amigos Online Conferences - Easy to Access. Meaningful to Attend

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

Register today for access to recent conferences:

- [Changing Standards, Local Choices: Navigating the Current Cataloging Landscape](#)
- [Facing the Future of Resource Sharing](#)
- [Adventures in Archives](#)
- [What Will We Keep: Creating the Next Remix of Library Services](#)

Know & Go Updates

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

- [Pivoting to Online Instruction](#) May 16
- [Tech Tools and Apps for the Reference Desk](#) June 6
- [Collaborating with Faculty](#) June 13

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Upcoming Live Online Classes

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

- [Introduction to Project Management](#) May 17–18, 10 am -12 pm
- [SimplyE @ Amigos: An Overview and Demonstration](#) May 17, 3-4 pm
- [Event Planning 101](#) May 18-19, 1-3 pm
- [Unpacking the ALA Committee on Diversity DEI Scorecard](#) May 25- 26, 10 am -12 pm
- [Regular Expressions](#) June 7-9, 10 am-12 pm - *Early bird registration ends 5/16*
- [Reference Management: A New Approach](#) June 8-10, 10 am-12 pm - *Early bird registration ends 5/17*
- [Introduction to Health Literacy for Libraries](#) June 15, 10 am-12 pm - *Early bird registration ends 5/24*
- [Media Literacy in Libraries](#) June 16, 10 am-12 pm - *Early bird registration ends 5/25*
- [Transparency in Library Communication](#) June 28-29, 10 am-12 pm - *Early bird registration ends 7/25*



Jefferson County Library

New! Portable Media Labs at Jefferson County Library

If you are longing to make the next Ken-Burns-quality documentary, or take your podcast to the next level, then our portable media labs have everything you need.

Thanks to a Technology Mini-Grant from LSTA* and the Missouri State Library, JCL has constructed a portable media lab for staff and patron use at each of our three branches.

The multimedia carts include a power strip, keyboard tray, and are height adjustable. Equipment includes a computer with recording and editing software, web camera, lapel microphone, standing microphone with soundboard, external hard drive, memory card reader, and more. Patrons and staff can also check out a green screen, ring light, digital camera, and/or tripod to enhance their projects.

*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.



Joplin Public Library

STEM Focused Curiosity Kits Make Debut

The children's department at the Joplin Public Library is now circulating seven staff-created STEM kits. The kits, also known as Curiosity Kits, began as a way to provide access to some of the children's department's STEM tools during programming breaks.

Thanks to a generous donation from the Lemons Charitable Trust, the library is able to offer three different kit types featuring STEM tools, books, and activities for elementary-aged children. Library card holders ages 7 to 12 and their families can discover electronics and circuit building with Snap Circuits, coding and robots with Ozobots, and electronics and inventions with Makey Makeys.



Two children testing out a Curiosity Kit

Upon returning their Curiosity Kit, one parent shared, "We love the Makey Makey. We tested out a Google game using a potato as the controller and a hair clip as the space bar. It was so fun to watch our first grader explore."

Curiosity Kits can be checked out for three weeks; one kit per card. A concerted effort was made to include everything a family or group might need to successfully explore the kits, though the Makey Makey kit does require both an internet connection and a computer or tablet. In the last two months, these kits have circulated 18 times, and the response has been overwhelmingly positive.

Chamber Helps Library Create Storytelling Videos

In celebration of National Library Week, the Joplin Area Chamber of Commerce partnered with the library to create a series of storytelling videos entitled "How to Get the Most Out of Your Library Card" that introduce certain departments or areas of service to the community.

Adult Programming Librarian Derek Moser, Children's Librarian Christina Matekel Gibson, Post Art Library Director Jill Sullivan, and Library Director Jeana Gockley were interviewed for the segments by Michelle Holloman from the Joplin Area Chamber of Commerce. Holloman used the footage to create the four-part series highlighting many of the library's non-book related service offerings.

In the videos, Moser discusses business services that are offered at the library, Matekel Gibson talks about children and teen services, Sullivan focuses on the unique role the Post Art Library plays in supporting the library, and Gockley provides a history of the library and shares information about the library's upcoming anniversary celebration.

The videos were first aired during April and can be found on [the library's YouTube channel](#).



Mid-Continent Public Library

MCPL Director to Retire After 34 Years of Service

Mid-Continent Public Library Director and CEO Steven V. Potter announced earlier this year that he will retire at the end of June. Potter has been the director at MCPL, which operates 35 service locations and serves more than 840,000 residents across Jackson, Clay, and Platte Counties, for 12 years but he has worked for the Library since 1988. During his 34 years with MCPL, Potter has served in a variety of different roles—from shelving books and managing day-to-day branch operations to cataloging and digitizing items, overseeing system-wide technology projects, and performing administrative functions at the Library’s headquarters.

During his tenure as director, Potter ushered in many significant milestones and achievements for the Library, including:

- 2010 – “MyMCPL.org” website is launched. This is a significant upgrade of the Library’s website and information infrastructure. Incidentally, Potter coded and launched the Library’s first website in 1995.
- 2011 – Downloadable eBooks are added to MCPL’s services. eBooks become the fastest growing and most quickly adopted service in the Library’s history.
- 2013 – The Story Center at MCPL is established with support from the Kauffman Foundation to help storytellers create and share their work and connect with the work of others.
- 2014 – MCPL wins the IMLS National Medal for Museum and Library Service Award, presented by First Lady Michelle Obama.
- 2014 – Square One Small Business Services at MCPL is established with support from the Kauffman Foundation to help local entrepreneurs and business owners.
- 2015 – The Library celebrates its 50th anniversary.
- 2016 – Voters pass Proposition L, which increases the Library’s funding for the first time in more than three decades, allowing the Library to enhance its offerings and update its physical spaces.
 - Prop L enables MCPL to expand branch hours, grow its collection (books, movies, music, online resources, etc.), and increase early literacy and other special programming.
- 2017 – MCPL launches its “Reading Rocket,” a mobile early literacy unit that travels to “transportation deserts” to provide Library services.
- 2018 – MCPL kicks off its Capital Improvement Plan, made possible by Prop L, which calls for improvements at all of its branches as well as the addition of two new branches.
 - To date, the Plan is nearly complete, with the majority of Library branches having been renovated or replaced and a new location added in Lee’s Summit (East Lee’s Summit Branch).
 - Currently, [four construction projects are underway](#) (construction of the Green Hills Library Center to replace the current Boardwalk Branch, the renovation of the Lee’s Summit Branch off Oldham Parkway, the replacement of the North Oak Branch building, and the addition of an auditorium to the Woodneath Library Center).
 - The Green Hills Library Center will open later this year and will become the home of the first public library culinary literacy center in the region, which will help people learn about food preparation, nutrition, and food culture. It will provide culinary-based programming to teach reading, math, science, and other subjects in a commercial kitchen with classroom seating. In addition, the branch will feature two health department-certified kitchens available for local food-based businesses.
 - To complete the construction promise made during the Prop L campaign, MCPL is in the final stages of property acquisition for the new Grain Valley Branch, East Independence Branch, and a replacement branch for Riverside.



Library Director Steven V. Potter

(Continued)

In 2015, Potter wrote an article with Diana Kander for *Library Journal*, and he coauthored the book *The Purpose-Based Library* with John Huber about how libraries can best serve their communities by adapting their offerings to people's needs, a strategy he's used throughout his career.

In addition to his work for MCPL, Potter is a member of many regional and national organizations, including:

- Clay County Economic Development Corporation, Board of Directors
- Independence Chamber of Commerce, Public Policy Committee
- Truman Heartland Community Foundation, Board of Directors
- Amigos Library Services, Board of Directors
- EveryLibrary Institute, Board of Directors
- Mid-America Library Alliance (MALA), Officer
- Missouri Public Library Directors, Officer
- Missouri Library Association
- Public Library Association
- American Library Association
- Rotary Club of Independence

In looking toward the future, Potter shared his enthusiasm for retirement: "I really look forward to benefiting from Mid-Continent Public Library's service as a customer for the first time since 1988."

MCPL Hosts Rededication Ceremony at Blue Ridge Branch

On Friday, March 18, Mid-Continent Public Library hosted a Rededication Ceremony at its Blue Ridge Branch (9253 Blue Ridge Blvd., Kansas City, Mo.) in honor of the upgrades made at that location in late 2021. The Blue Ridge Branch closed in March 2021 and reopened at the end of November, receiving a variety of improvements during its renovation, including:

- New community and meeting rooms
- New lighting, paint, carpet, and ceilings
- Automatic entrance doors
- Enhanced entry and native landscaping
- New signage and display cases
- Updated furniture



The ceremony on Friday, March 18, included remarks from Library leadership as well as local officials, including Kansas City Council Member Ryana Parks-Shaw and Hickman Mills School District Superintendent Yaw Obeng, followed by a special "book-opening" ceremony and reception. Throughout the weekend, branch staff gave away \$10 fine forgiveness tokens (one per person) that can be used one time to clear all Library fines and fees up to \$10. In addition, customers participated in a virtual scavenger hunt through the free GooseChase app.

As part of MCPL's Capital Improvement Plan, the Blue Ridge Branch is one of many Library branches to receive upgrades, which have been made possible by increased funding from the passage of Proposition L by voters in 2016. While the upgrades at each branch vary based on individual community needs and the building's current condition, the Library's goal has been to create more intentional spaces and improve essential technology. 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 approved by voters in 2016 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.

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MCPL Hosts Regional Spelling Bee, Sends Winner to Nationals



Brooklyn Stewart

This March, 31 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.

Brooklyn Stewart, an 8th grade student at St. Elizabeth Elementary, emerged as this year's MCPL Spelling Bee winner after 27 rounds! Brooklyn now has the opportunity to participate in the Scripps National Spelling Bee at the Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center in National Harbor, Maryland, with MCPL covering travel expenses for both the student and a caregiver. The Scripps National Bee kicks off on May 30 and runs through June 2, and the finals will be broadcast on live TV and hosted by actor, director, podcaster, and popular children's television host LeVar Burton.

Community Partnerships Bring New Services to MCPL Customers

Evergy recently partnered with Mid-Continent Public Library and the Kansas City Public Library to launch a new program called the Power Check pilot program, which is aimed at helping local residents become more energy efficient at home. Just in time for Earth Day, the new program launched Monday, April 18, 2022. Library customers can now check out a Power Check Device, plug it into select appliances and electrical devices at home, and measure their energy use. Users can then convert that energy use to dollars spent to see how they might be able to conserve unnecessary electricity use and potentially save money on utility bills.

"We're very excited to pilot this program with Evergy, which we think will be greatly beneficial to our customers, especially as the costs of daily necessities continue to rise," said Jacqueline Reed, Associate Director for Public Services at MCPL.

MCPL customers can reserve a Power Check Device with their Library card through [the Library's online catalog](#) and pick it up at their [local MCPL branch](#). Devices are available for a 7-day checkout period, with up to two renewals, and must be returned inside a branch. More information about checking out a Power Check Device from MCPL can be found at mymcpl.org/PowerCheck.

MCPL branches are now also giving away at-home COVID tests to customers who request one, while supplies last, courtesy of Samuel U. Rodgers Health Center. Customers can stop by any MCPL branch to get a COVID test kit, which each contain two nasal swab tests. The Library's partnership with Samuel Rodgers Health Center is part of a larger effort to make more COVID tests available to the public.

"We know that at-home COVID tests are a valuable tool for many individuals and families, and we're happy to help Samuel U. Rodgers Health Center get more of them into the hands of community members," said Christen Stein, MCPL Associate Director for Public Service.



Community members can pick up one kit per person, per day, at their local MCPL branch. A Library card is not required, and the test kits are free. Visit mymcpl.org/locations to find a branch near you. MCPL continues to partner with local health departments in its district to host COVID-19 vaccine clinics. Upcoming clinics can be found at mymcpl.org/Vaccine. Additional health and wellness events and resources from the Library can be found at mymcpl.org/Wellness.



2022 MOBIUS Annual Conference

MOBIUS will be hosting its first in-person conference since 2019! We are excited to welcome our members back for an opportunity to connect, see old friends and colleagues, share ideas, and learn from one another.

This year's event will feature Marshall Breeding, creator and editor of Library Technology Guides, as keynote speaker and will take place on June 6-8, 2022 at the Stoney Creek Conference Center in Independence, Missouri. As always, the MOBIUS Annual Conference is free for employees of Missouri libraries thanks to a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services. Check the conference website often for updated information on speakers, training opportunities, and registration:

2022conf.mobiusconsortium.org.

MOSS (MOBIUS Open Source Solutions)

In Evergreen services, MOBIUS completed the migration process with NOBLE, the North of Boston Library Exchange consortium, to host their Evergreen instance. CW MARS, an Evergreen consortium in central and western Massachusetts, signed a contract to have MOBIUS host their Evergreen instance, as well. MOBIUS is in talks with some other consortia and libraries about moving to our MOSS service. Staff members also continue to be very active in the larger Evergreen users community, including setting up a community server to host bugfixes for the community's Bug Squashing Week.

MOBIUS hosts four library systems on our ArchivesSpace MOSS offering and continues to work with other systems to migrate in the near future. We also arranged a peer training on the platform for one of the new members. ArchivesSpace is a web application, created by archivists, for archives and other cultural heritage organizations to manage and present information digitally.

Additionally, MOBIUS hosts one library on Omeka, an open source product that helps libraries create and manage digital exhibits and born-digital collections.

MOBIUS had a booth at the Public Library Association (PLA) conference in Portland, Oregon, March 23-25, to promote MOSS services, and had a great time meeting attendees! We also continue to research other open-source products for possible use by the MOBIUS membership.

For more information on MOSS and what we offer, please visit our newly updated web page, mobiusconsortium.org/moss.



Missouri Association of College and Research Librarians (MACRL)



“[It's a Sign of the Times: Cultivating Attention through Intentional Engagement](#)” is MACRL's 2022 Spring Virtual Event, Wednesday, May 25 at 11:00 a.m. Hosted by Amanda Albert from Washington University (*left*), the workshop will center around the topic of faculty and student engagement and ask the deep questions to help you identify what you want to do less of, what you want to do more of, and ways in which we can all do work that feels generative and sustainable.

[Register here.](#)



Springfield-Greene County Library District



Author Brit Bennett shared the stage in an in-depth, interview style discussion with Dr. Ashley Payne, an Educational Psychologist and Assistant Professor in the Psychology Department at Missouri State University.

Author Brit Bennett Takes Center Stage for One Read

Bestselling author Brit Bennett drew some 150 attendees to the Library Center Thursday, April 14, for her talk about “The Vanishing Half” and the themes it raised, from the complicated mother-daughter relationships of sisters Stella and Desiree Vignes, to “the absurdities of racism.”

Bennett’s visit, funded by the Friends of the Library, was part of The Library’s 2022 One Read series in April.



Library Center Hosts StoryCorps Mobile Tour



StoryCorps delivers touching, funny and sometimes revealing personal stories via NPR nationwide, including the Ozarks’ NPR station KSMU, 91.1 FM. The mobile team selected the Library Center as the recording site for its southwest Missouri visit April 18-May 18. The public signed up for recording slots through a website, and requests came from individuals from diverse populations and community organizations.

Rooted in the Ozarks Series Taps into Ozarks’ Past

Bo Brown, avian field biologist and author of “Foraging the Ozarks,” drew 70 attendees at his March 2 talk to kick off the four-part Rooted in the Ozarks series at the Library Center. His presentation covered the local wild plants found in fields, forests, backyards and abandoned parking lots that he says can be gathered and eaten. The series continued with storyteller Marideth Sisco on her book, “Crosspatch: Cranky Musings on Gardening in Rocky Soil,” Brandon Weston on “Ozark Folk Magic: Plants, Prayers & Healing,” and foraging educator and chef Rachael West on Eating the Ozarks: Infused Vinegars.

(Continued)

John House Returns as IT Director

The new IT Director John House returned to his computer science and math roots when he joined the library on Monday, March 28. John spent 2006–2012 in the Library Station Children’s and Reference departments, but he had earned a Bachelor of Arts in Mathematics and Computer Science in 2001 from Drury University. And most of his recent career has been in IT support for Springfield Public Schools, University of Kansas, CNH Industrial Reman and Drury. It may just be in his blood, too – he says he’s “second-generation IT,” as his father has been in the field since the ’70s. John fills the void left when former IT Director David Patillo died in August 2021 due to COVID-19. He was 53.



#VeryAsian’s Michelle Li Leads April 7 Staff Training



St. Louis NBC news anchor and reporter Michelle Li shared her #VeryAsian story via Zoom on April 7 as part of The Library’s “Culture of Belonging at the Library” staff training. The story began on New Year’s Day 2022. After a story aired on the evening newscast about New Year’s traditions, Li shared, “I ate dumpling soup. That’s what a lot of Korean people do.” Shortly afterward, the station received a voicemail from a viewer that, among other things, criticized Li for “being very Asian” and admonishing that Li should “keep her Korean to herself.” Though shocked and dismayed by these remarks, Li wouldn’t let them be the end of the story.

Li, who is a former Springfield-Greene County Library staff member and former KY3 reporter, was inspired to start a movement: #VeryAsian. The [Very Asian Foundation](#) supports Asian American and Pacific Islander communities. These groups have seen a rise in hate crimes perpetrated against them, especially since the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic. Li’s story has been picked up by traditional media and social media outlets, even earning her a spot on Ellen, with the talk show host giving Li a check for \$15,000 to further the #VeryAsian movement.

Out-of-This-World Exhibit Appeals to Space Enthusiasts

The wonders of space exploration and the search for alien worlds attracted children and adults alike to the Discover Exoplanets: The Search for Alien Earths” exhibit at the Library Station, on display until June 25. Related programs scheduled at the Library Station through the exhibit include Astrophotography, Searching for E.T.: The Myth and Reality of Finding Home, a “Star Wars” triple feature, Teen LARP Night, a STEAM Train program for kids to test three samples of “alien soil,” and Space Fest, a drop-in event with games, crafts, experiments and virtual reality activities.



MU Libraries

Deb Ward Appointed Vice Provost for Libraries

Deborah Ward, the interim vice provost for Libraries and University Librarian since 2019, has been appointed to the permanent position, effective May 1.

For nearly twenty-five years, Ward has tirelessly served Mizzou in a variety of roles: Director of the J. Otto Lottes Health Sciences Library and Veterinary Medical Library (1997-2021), Interim Associate Director for Research and Information Services (2009-2013), Associate University Librarian for Specialized Libraries (2017-2019), and Interim Vice Provost for Libraries and Interim University Librarian (2019-Present).

During her time as Interim Vice Provost for Libraries, Ward supported students and faculty during the campus closure for COVID-19; built on her vision to integrate the e-learning experience of students with e-resources from the Libraries; participated actively in the campus space reduction initiative; and found ways to bring the teaching collection of the School of Visual Studies into various spaces in Ellis Library. Most recently, she led a team effort to secure a challenge grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, which will fund the renovation of the Ellis Library West Stacks. This renovation project was recommended through a formal feasibility study, is foundational to further renovations, and points to the need for a forward-looking library space master plan. She regularly works with faculty groups, students, and campus administrators to align library spaces, collections, and services with their stated priorities.

Prior to being named interim vice provost, Ward served as the Director of the Health Sciences Library, where she promoted the adoption of electronic information delivery to the hospitals and clinics, clinical librarian services, and the integration of evidence-based information into health care delivery. She was key to the development of a digital library to support rural healthcare providers in Missouri, and she created a new health research librarian position for the HSL. Ward also promoted strong outreach in the state through the HSL's participation as a Library Partner in the National Network of Libraries of Medicine.

Ward received an AB from Eastern Kentucky University in German; an MA from Eastern Kentucky University in Education, with a library science emphasis; and an MSLS from the University of Kentucky in Library Science.



Scenic Regional Library

Byrd Granted Friends of School Libraries Award

Elizabeth Byrd, Children's Programmer at the Sullivan Branch of Scenic Regional Library, was selected as the recipient of the 2022 Friends of School Libraries Award by the Missouri Association of School Librarians (MASL). According to the MASL website, the Friend of School Libraries Award is granted to individuals who "have provided sustained or exemplary service to library media services in Missouri." Ms. Byrd was nominated by Cathy Boero, Sullivan Primary School Librarian. According to Boero, Elizabeth visits Sullivan monthly and reads to five of their preschool classes both in the morning and afternoon. She also sends weekly video recorded book talks that are shared during the school's "morning news" program. "Her level of excitement when presenting these books is so engaging, even some of our teachers comment how they would like to read the books she recommends," said Boero. Elizabeth also performs monthly outreach activities at Spring Bluff School, Strain-Japan School, and St. Anthony's Preschool and Kindergarten.



Elizabeth Byrd, Children's Programmer at Scenic Regional Library's Sullivan Branch, receiving the 2022 MASL Friends of School Libraries award.

(Continued)

Elizabeth has been the Children's Programmer at the Sullivan branch for two years. Prior to that, she worked as the K-8 Renaissance Coordinator and library assistant at Crawford County R-1 School District for 20 years. Elizabeth loves sharing the joy of reading, and one of her favorite read-aloud books is *Chicken Storytime*, by Sandy Asher. In her spare time, she enjoys traveling with her husband, Jeff, and spending time with her two daughters, Alexis and Victoria, and son-in-law, Alejandro. You can also find her with her nose in a book, cup of coffee in hand.

First Annual Community Read a Huge Success



Teens attending an "Escape From Dr. Frankenstein's Monster" escape room at Scenic Regional Library.

Programs included "Cuddle Monster No-Sew", "Escape From Dr. Frankenstein's Monster" (an escape room), "Franken-Cooking", "Virtual How to Draw Frankenstein", book discussions, and "Mad Science: Fire & Ice". The programming culminated with "Meet Mary Shelley", a performance by living history storyteller Susan Marie Frontzcek on Saturday, April 30.

More than 350 copies of *Frankenstein* were distributed to 10 area high schools and middle schools that participated in the Community Read and incorporated the novel into their curriculum. In addition, the library donated 90 copies of *Mary Who Wrote Frankenstein* and 120 copies of *Gris Grimly's Frankenstein* to area elementary and middle schools.

For more information about our Community Read, visit thiscommunityreads.org.

Scenic Regional Library, in partnership with Washington Public Library and East Central College, launched an annual Community Read event on March 12. The goal was to build a bond within our communities and encourage discussion by having as many people as possible read the same book at the same time. The book chosen to kick off our first annual Community Read was *Frankenstein*, by Mary Shelley. On March 12, patrons could pick up a free paperback copy of *Frankenstein* from any Scenic Regional branch.

So that children and teens could also participate in the Community Read, two additional books were added to the program: Copies of *Mary Who Wrote Frankenstein*, by Linda Bailey; and copies of *Gris Grimly's Frankenstein*, a graphic novel.

The Community Read began with a kick-off event at each branch on Saturday, March 12. Starting on Monday, March 21, and continuing through the following six weeks, the Library and its partners presented 104 free programs and book discussions throughout the three-county area (Gasconade, Franklin, and Warren Counties).



A group of young patrons watching "Mad Science: Fire & Ice" at Scenic Regional Library. This spectacular show included foggy dry ice storms, sizzling, shivering scissors, and bubbly showers!

University of Missouri – Kansas City

Meet the New Dean of Libraries, Dr. Cindy Thompson

Since Dean Postlethwaite's retirement in July 2020, Cindy has served as interim dean of libraries while continuing to fulfill most of her duties as associate dean of resources & services, supported by Sandy Rodriguez as associate dean of special collections & archives and Nara Newcomer as interim director of library operations. Cindy has worked at UMKC Libraries since 2006 in roles including head of resource sharing and director of public services, has served as chair of the UMKC Institutional Review Board since 2016, and served as president of the Missouri Library Association for 2021.

[Read the full announcement.](#)



Changes for Equitable Interlibrary Loan Service



So that undergraduates and non-degree students will receive the same service as all other patrons, the ILL Department modified its workflows and changed its policy regarding unfillable requests. In reconsidering the policy, we dismissed the notion that a library patron's academic standing has some measure of importance when it comes to their research. When considering a patron's need to obtain research materials, whether for their first college term paper or for a million-dollar research grant application, the patron's need is fundamentally the same from a library service perspective.

[Read more about this policy change.](#)

More Accessible Special Collections

Special Collections (and libraries in general) can be intimidating and inaccessible for many reasons. People with disabilities may have difficulty using libraries for a variety of reasons. A disability is any physical or mental condition that limits or prevents you from doing daily tasks. [One quarter of all adults in the United States have some type of disability](#) and [disabilities are more common for Black and some Indigenous people](#) than people of other races and ethnicities. Even if we don't have a permanent disability, most of us will experience a temporary disability at some point in our lives. Considering those factors, we are working to make changes that make our collections and spaces more accessible to people with disabilities (with bonus benefits for all users).

[Learn about some of our strategies to make special collections accessible.](#)

Health Equity and UMKC's Health Sciences Library



As a participant in the work of the UMKC Health Sciences District, we at the Health Sciences Library provide resources and research assistance to health sciences students, faculty, and staff as they work on community-centered projects that are a part of the [Health Equity Institute](#). The projects aim to improve health outcomes and reduce health disparities in the Kansas City area.

[Learn about the health equity resources here.](#)

(Continued)

Library Makes Changes to Checkout Policies

High use items like phone chargers, headphones, and books professors place on course reserves often have a limited checkout time in order for a large number of students to be able to use them. Prior to this project to update our policies, library staff relied on overdue fines to ensure that short-term checkout items were returned on time. This can place an undue burden on students - particularly on those who have limited resources. As part of the library's focused efforts to implement and maintain anti-racist and anti-oppressive practices in our services, we asked: how could we apply an equity lens in this situation? The staff in Circulation Services reviewed our use policies in order to ascertain if changes could be made that allowed easier use of these items while still making items available to most users.

[See the policy changes made.](#)



500,000 Interlibrary Loan Requests!

The UMKC Libraries just processed our 500,000th Interlibrary Loan request!

This means that since the fall of 2006, the amazing team in the Interlibrary Loan department has managed half a million online requests from UMKC library users as well as from libraries requesting materials from UMKC library collections.

[Learn more about UMKC's ILL service.](#)



University of Central Missouri (UCM) Library

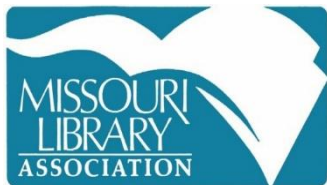
UCM Congratulates University Librarian on PhD and Welcomes New Education Librarian



The faculty and staff of James C. Kirkpatrick Library (JCKL) offers their heartfelt congratulations to University Librarian Dr. Janette Klein, who successfully defended her dissertation, *Life Coaches, Communities of Practice, and Everyday Life Information Seeking: An Exploratory Case Study*, this March and will be awarded her PhD in Interdisciplinary Information Science next month from the University of North Texas. Dr. Klein has led JCKL through a myriad of recent changes since her appointment in 2019 and continues work building the library's strategic plan and upcoming renovations. She holds an MBA in Organizational Behavior and Human Resources Management and an MLIS, both from the University of North Texas.



This Spring, JCKL welcomed Sara Evans as the new Liaison Librarian to the College of Education. Before joining the library faculty, Ms. Evans worked as Services Coordinator for the Trails Regional Library system. Ms. Evans is looking forward to collaborating with faculty and students in the College of Education and integrating library services throughout the UCM campus.



The Missouri Library Association,
Columbia, MO,
est. 1900, is the Missouri State Chapter

MO INFO

Newsletter of the Missouri Library Association

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