Greetings, fellow MLA Members!

I am honored and excited for the opportunity to step into MLA leadership during such a significant time for libraries. The road ahead is only possible due to the incredible and intentional leadership of Past President Otter Bowman in 2023, and I have been lucky to learn from their experience and follow in their footsteps. I additionally served on the MLA Executive Board during the presidency of Claudia Young in 2022, and as an MLA conference coordinator during 2017. My career and professional values have been shaped by the engaging opportunities and fierce leaders that MLA consistently provided, and I look forward to continuing the critical work of making MLA an active and vibrant organization that supports all library workers.

I would be remiss if I failed to acknowledge the challenges to access and intellectual freedom that libraries currently face throughout Missouri. Libraries are in the news on a frequent basis - and with every story I’m more and more inspired. There are difficulties and frustrations that cannot be ignored, but at every turn I see librarians and library staff handling situations with grace and professionalism. The value of libraries is increasingly visible, and we see our communities responding with personal stories and support for the work you do every day. This past year we’ve seen an outpouring of comments and phone calls advocating for library funding, and the creation of the Right to Read Coalition as a distinct voice in support of libraries from beyond our walls. I’m impressed and inspired to continue this work with each of you.

Which brings me to MLA Legislative Advocacy Day, occurring on Tuesday, February 6. Please consider joining us in Jefferson City, and asking members of your community who value your library to do the same. You can learn more about the event in the message from Cody Croan, Legislative Chair, in this issue of MO INFO. Communicating with your representatives about the importance of Missouri libraries is vitally important. Even if you choose not to attend in person, I ask you consider reaching out over the phone, or by sending a personal message.

Beyond advocacy work, MLA is looking forward to the 2024 Annual Conference, which will be held in Kansas City at the KCI Expo Center, September 25-27. A huge thank you in advance to conference coordinators Stephanie Shade and Michael Engelman. The opportunities for professional development and engagement with colleagues during times like these are invaluable, so make sure to put it on your calendars now!

I’ll be reaching out early this year to make committee appointments, so please keep an eye on the MLA listserv for areas that need additional support. I’ll also be sharing resources that I learn about throughout the year, including from a recent ALA Chapter Advocacy Workshop, and encourage you to share as well. Our organization succeeds because of the time, energy, and dedication of so many volunteers, and we all learn and grow together.

Thank you for everything you do for our communities, for our libraries, and for MLA. We are stronger together, and I’m privileged to have a front row seat in seeing what we accomplish this year.

Best,
Kimberly Moeller
MLA President 2024
mlapresident@molib.org
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Library Advocacy Day: February 6, 2024
COME TOGETHER | DISCUSS PRIORITIES | RAISE AWARENESS

Advocacy Day Schedule:
9:30 – Noon  Welcome and Orientation  
1 – 5  Legislator visits

Registration: $30.00 per person, includes lunch Register here (required)
Remember to set up appointments with your senators & representatives!

Find your legislator / Find contact information:
Missouri Senators – senate.mo.gov/  
Missouri Representatives – house.mo.gov/MemberRoster.aspx
Familiarize yourself with MLA Priorities for 2024 (FY2025)
Look for upcoming talking points: molib.org/Library-Advocacy-Day
## Calendar of Events

Training is available each month, as close as your keyboard! 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>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 16</td>
<td>1 pm</td>
<td><strong>Black Voices for Black History Month</strong></td>
<td>Booklist</td>
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<td>January 17</td>
<td>10 am</td>
<td><strong>NCompass Live: Auditing Library Websites</strong></td>
<td>Nebraska Library Commission</td>
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<td>1 pm</td>
<td><strong>Best Practices When Using American Community Survey Data</strong></td>
<td>US Census Bureau</td>
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<td>2 pm</td>
<td><strong>Digitization Best Practices and Metadata Basics</strong></td>
<td>Long Island Library Resources Council</td>
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<td>January 18</td>
<td>11 am</td>
<td><strong>Teaching Copyright K-12: Ready to Go, and It’s All Free</strong></td>
<td>Copyright &amp; Creativity</td>
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<td>12 pm</td>
<td><strong>Best Practices for Gender Diversity &amp; Inclusion in the Workplace</strong></td>
<td>Nonprofit Learning Lab</td>
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<td>12 pm</td>
<td><strong>Providing Mental Health Information at Your Library</strong></td>
<td>National Library of Medicine</td>
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<td>1:00 pm</td>
<td><strong>Entrepreneurial: Supporting Small Business Development in Libraries</strong></td>
<td>Amigos Library Services</td>
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<td>2 pm</td>
<td><strong>Choosing Your Words in APA Style: Best Practices for Clear, Precise, and Inclusive Writing</strong></td>
<td>ALA/ACRL</td>
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<td>January 22</td>
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<td><strong>Public Relations Saves the World: Three Steps to Maximizing Media Opportunities</strong></td>
<td>Nonprofit Learning Lab</td>
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<td><strong>Making the Most Out of Your Grant Application</strong></td>
<td>National Library of Medicine</td>
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<td><strong>AI Tools and Prompts for Library Instruction</strong></td>
<td>Amigos Library Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 23</td>
<td>12 pm</td>
<td><strong>5 Reasons Why Direct Mail Continues to Create Fundraising Home Runs</strong></td>
<td>CharityHowTo</td>
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<td>12 pm</td>
<td><strong>Efficient Management of Your Technology Devices</strong></td>
<td>Techsoup</td>
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<td>January 24</td>
<td>10 am</td>
<td><strong>Anatomy of a Book Challenge</strong></td>
<td>Indiana State Library</td>
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<td>10 am</td>
<td><strong>Misinformation in the College Classroom: How are Faculty and Librarians Teaching News Literacy Skills?</strong></td>
<td>Niche Academy</td>
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<td>1 pm</td>
<td><strong>Generative AI Beyond ChatGPT</strong></td>
<td>ACRL</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 25</td>
<td>10 am</td>
<td><strong>AI-Assisted Libraries: Synergistic Solutions for the Digital Era</strong></td>
<td>MALA</td>
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<td>January 29</td>
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<td><strong>Health Statistics on the Web</strong></td>
<td>National Library of Medicine</td>
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<td><strong>Meet the Artists! An Award-Winning Illustrator Webinar</strong></td>
<td>Booklist</td>
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<td><strong>Etched in Stone: Lessons from Recipes Found on Gravestones</strong></td>
<td>Long Island Library Resources Council</td>
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<td>1:30 pm</td>
<td><strong>What’s New in Science Fiction and Fantasy</strong></td>
<td>Amigos Library Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 30</td>
<td>1 pm</td>
<td><strong>Building Authentic Relationships with Underserved Communities</strong></td>
<td>WebJunction</td>
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<td>3 pm</td>
<td><strong>COPY BYTES: Digitization And Libraries, Part 1</strong></td>
<td>Metropolitan NY Library Council</td>
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<td>January 31</td>
<td>2 pm</td>
<td><strong>Library Telehealth Partnerships: Lessons Learned and Looking Ahead</strong></td>
<td>National Library of Medicine</td>
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<td>February 7</td>
<td>2 pm</td>
<td><strong>Reframing Failure: How to Keep Calm and Carry On</strong></td>
<td>MALA</td>
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<td>February 12</td>
<td>1:30 pm</td>
<td><strong>Climate Literacy and Climate Change Awareness</strong></td>
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<td>February 15</td>
<td>10 am</td>
<td><strong>Creative Solutions in Cataloging, Acquisitions, and Resources Management</strong></td>
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<td>February 21</td>
<td>1:00 pm</td>
<td><strong>Bedbugs and Mold in Libraries: Identification and Mitigation</strong></td>
<td>Amigos Library Services</td>
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<td>February 22</td>
<td>10 am</td>
<td><strong>Improving Library Services for Justice-Involved Patrons</strong></td>
<td>MALA</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 22</td>
<td>2 pm</td>
<td><strong>Switching it Up! Creating a Video Game Collection for Your Library</strong></td>
<td>WebJunction</td>
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<td>February 26</td>
<td>1:30 pm</td>
<td><strong>Using TikTok at Your Library</strong></td>
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<td>February 27</td>
<td>2 pm</td>
<td><strong>Co-Creating Library Services for Transformative Impact</strong></td>
<td>WebJunction</td>
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<td>February 28</td>
<td>1 pm</td>
<td><strong>Embracing a Public Service Mindset to Better Demonstrate Your Library’s Value</strong></td>
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<td>February 29</td>
<td>2:30 pm</td>
<td><strong>Spring into These New Middle Grade Reads by Newbery Authors!</strong></td>
<td>Booklist</td>
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<td>March 5</td>
<td>2:00 pm</td>
<td><strong>Collection Management: Selection and Acquisition</strong></td>
<td>Amigos Library Services</td>
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<td>March 11</td>
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<td><strong>Creating Effective Library Policies</strong></td>
<td>Amigos Library Services</td>
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<td>March 18</td>
<td>1:30 pm</td>
<td><strong>Serving K-12 in the Academic Library</strong></td>
<td>Amigos Library Services</td>
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<td>March 25</td>
<td>1:30 pm</td>
<td><strong>Documenting Library Work: Lessons We Can Learn from Technical Writers</strong></td>
<td>Amigos Library Services</td>
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<td>March 26</td>
<td>10 am</td>
<td><strong>Serving the Neurodiverse Library User</strong></td>
<td>Amigos Library Services</td>
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<td><strong>Is this Feasible? Conducting Feasibility Studies in Libraries</strong></td>
<td>Amigos Library Services</td>
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Meet this Issue’s Featured Library Employee for the Missouri Library Association, Linda Richardson!

What is your name, your library, and your role at the library?
Linda Richardson, Assistant Librarian at the Montgomery City Public Library

What originally got you interested in working at a library?
After retiring from teaching, I wanted a part-time job. Being an avid reader, I thought the library would be a good fit for me. I substituted at the library until my current job became available. I have been here since November 2003.

What keeps you coming back every day?
I enjoy interacting with our patrons and meeting new patrons. I try to help them find appropriate reading materials for their needs by keeping up to date on new books being published, especially new fiction titles.

What's challenging about your work?
The most challenging part of my job is anything dealing with technology. Technology changes so quickly that it is hard to keep up.

Who are your mentors?
My mentors include Linda Eatherton, former library director, who taught me the basics. My current mentor is our director, Gaylee Harris, who shows great patience when helping me with anything to do with technology.

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.
Currently, I am reading *The Wonder of It All* by Barbara Taylor Bradford. I have been a big fan of hers for many years. This is part of the series "A House of Falconer." For those who enjoy historical fiction, I would highly recommend this book.

Is there anything else you'd like to share with us?
Thank you for selecting me for the MLA Library Employee of the Month.

Linda’s nominator had this to say about Linda: “She has worked at the Montgomery City Public Library for 18+ years. She knows the majority of our patrons by name and what kinds of books they like! She's shy and humble so I'm not sure how she'll respond if she is selected. Either way, she deserves recognition.”
Missouri Library Association – Recruitment and Retention Task Force

You Belong in Missouri Libraries - Diverse Recruitment & Retention in Missouri Libraries

The Missouri Library Association (MLA) Recruitment and Retention Task Force is launching You Belong in Missouri Libraries, a program to develop a diverse Missouri library workforce in order to more closely reflect the demographics of the communities that libraries serve.

You Belong in Missouri Libraries will help diverse library employees overcome educational, financial, and additional barriers to library careers, making the profession more accessible and inclusive.

Elements of the Program

- Scholarship for 1 undergraduate per year
- Scholarship for 1 Master of Library and Information Science (MLIS) student per year
- 1:1 mentor support for each student for 2 years
- Participation in a leadership academy at MLA Annual Conference
- Professional development funding for MLIS students

Outcomes of the Program

- Increased representation of diverse people in libraries, both as library workers and librarians
- Increased retention of diverse people in Missouri libraries
- Strengthened network of diverse library employees in Missouri

Eligible applicants include diverse library workers in Missouri who are in their final two years of an undergraduate degree or are pursuing a MLIS. We anticipate that the first You Belong cohort will begin in Fall 2025.

The MLA Recruitment and Retention Task Force is actively pursuing funding from multiple sources to support this important program. A preliminary proposal was submitted to the IMLS Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian grant program on September 20, 2023.

How can you support this program?

Mentors

Are you a library professional in Missouri from a historically underrepresented group? The You Belong program is looking for mentors to provide 1:1 support to You Belong cohort students as well as wisdom gained from their professional and lived experiences. Mentors and students will set goals for the mentorship together and meet at least once a month for a year.

Internship Sites

Would your institution be willing to host a You Belong scholar as an intern? If you are interested, please reach out to the Task Force at recruitment@molib.org to discuss details.

Funding

Funding will provide essential resources to support Black, Indigenous, and other peoples of color (BIPOC) as they complete undergraduate and graduate degrees in order to work in libraries. Funds will also support BIPOC mentors who will help nurture and develop scholars and support professional development and a leadership summit at the MLA Annual Conference.

You can donate at https://molib.org/donate. When prompted, select “You Belong Program.”

You can also contact us about one of the following levels of funding:

Founder - $100,000 A Founder gift would provide the financial stability to ensure this program is sustainable long-term. This would come with a naming opportunity.

Visionary - $50,000 A Visionary gift will fund 3 years of this program.

Continued on next page
Champion - $9,750  The Champion gift will fully fund one MLIS student, providing a $6,000 scholarship, a $1,500 professional development stipend, attendance and participation in leadership activities at the MLA Annual Conference, and two years of BIPOC mentorship.

Ally - $6,250  The Ally gift will fully fund one undergraduate student, providing a $4,000 scholarship, attendance and participation in leadership activities at the MLA Annual Conference, and two years of BIPOC mentorship.

Spread the Word!
Please help us spread the word! Make sure your networks know about this statewide effort and the importance of increasing diverse representation in Missouri libraries. Keep updated on this initiative by emailing recruitment@molib.org.

MLA Legislative Committee

A lot has happened for Missouri Libraries over the past year with an even busier 2024 ahead of us. We started seeing bills pre-filed as of December 1, 2023. The legislative session started on January 4, 2024, and we are well on our way to Library Advocacy Day. The event will be held at the State Library Interpretive Center in Jefferson City, on Tuesday February 6, 2024. You can find out more at the page on the MLA website.

Registration is required and can be done here. Doors will open at 9:30 am with the schedule of speakers starting at 10 am. We will hear an update on library funding and any legislation affecting libraries that has been filed up to that point. Coffee will be provided in the morning and lunch will be brought in so that we can all connect and catch up over something warm to drink and a tasty meal.

What I look forward to most about Library Advocacy Day is the opportunity to share the positive impacts my library makes every day in the community. Libraries are institutions created by the community to provide them access to information, resources, services, spaces, and ideas to help them move forward in their lives as individuals and as a community. From using the library’s meeting rooms to study or work, to getting lost in an entertaining story, and to using the resources and services to improve one’s career or start a business. Just as with sharing any story we need to know our audience. Now is the time to share the story of the library, which in truth is the story of the community. Get our legislators excited about the library by sharing how your library’s services improve your community members’ lives and how the library continues to play an integral part in the story of your community.

Think about the stories you’ll share before February 6, and come Library Advocacy Day we will provide you with more information about library funding requests and more.

After you register for Library Advocacy Day, don’t forget to set up your visits with your library’s Representatives and Senators between 1 pm and 5 pm on February 6. It’s important to get those meetings set up as soon as possible to best ensure you get time with them.

Please, do not hesitate to contact me with any questions about Library Advocacy Day at ccroanlibrarian@gmail.com.

I look forward to seeing you there!

I hope you all have had a very wonderful start to the 2024 year!

Best,
Cody Croan,
MLA Legislative Committee, Chair
Niso Releases Content Profile/Linked Document Standard

The National Information Standards Organization (NISO) recently announced publication of its newest standard, ANSI/NISO Z39.105-2023, Content Profile/Linked Document (CP/LD), which enables portions of content, data, semantics and other resources from separate sources to be combined into a single, standards-based format optimized for interchange, search and display.

For most disciplines, the journal article remains the primary means of communicating the outputs of scholarly research. As a result, publishing workflows and systems as well as the information standards supporting them have been largely based on large XML document models.

Increasingly, however, users also expect to access articles and associated content—e.g., research data, semantics, code, models, and images—in smaller, arbitrary portions or “chunks.”

The “CP/LD Standard” addresses this growing need by providing flexible instructions for linking and combining academic, research, and professional content, data, and semantics in a single package. It defines a machine-readable, self-describing, standards-based markup format that can be used to exchange data between systems, APIs, and services. The new standard advances scholarly research by enabling users to engage with a specific portion of content at the appropriate time in the research lifecycle, including prior to publication. CP/LD does not replace existing models and standards—e.g., ANSI/NISO Z39.96, Journal Article Tag Suite (JATS)—used for articles, books, data sets, or semantic and metadata schemes, but rather complements them.

The NISO Content Profile/Linked Document standard is freely available at https://www.niso.org/standards-committees/cpld.

Amigos Library Services members receive the benefit of free membership to the NISO Library Standards Alliance which includes access to NISO's educational webinar program, unlimited participation in NISO Working Groups/Standing Committees, and discounted registration for all non-webinar events, including the annual NISO Plus conference.

Enhance Journal Collections with Project MUSE PLUS+

Expand access to timely and trusted scholarship with the PLUS+ Package, a large bundle of titles that are part of the journal hosting program on the Project MUSE platform including over 75 journals from nearly 40 distinguished publishers.

Oxford University Press Joins theIPregistry.org for Easier Handling of IP Addresses

Oxford University Press joins theIPregistry.org in early 2024 to make the process of checking, monitoring, and updating IP addresses easier. Starting January 17, 2024, and going forward, IP updates should be sent via theIPregistry.org instead of the Oxford “My Account” or to OUP customer service team.

Continued on next page
Continuing Education News

Registration Open for “Creative Solutions in Cataloging, Acquisitions, and Resources Management”

Cataloging, acquisitions, and resource management are areas of constant innovation, keeping pace with new content and formats and evolving to reflect the communities' libraries serve. Join Amigos Library Services on February 15, 2024, for a showcase of pioneering strategies and creative solutions that transcend traditional approaches to technical and access services.

Register today for the online conference, "Creative Solutions in Cataloging, Acquisitions, and Resources Management.” Topics covered will include (topics come from the list of invited presenters):

- Collaborations in Acquisitions
- Demonstrating Value
- Building Relationships
- Workload Analysis
- Communities of Practice for Learning
- Classification Alternatives

On Request Training Available

Amigos will provide on-request training sessions, online or face-to-face designed specifically to meet your library's needs. On-request training can be an effective way to meet specific and specialized training needs. Contact learning@amigos.org for more information.

Amigos Online Conferences: Easy to Access, Meaningful to Attend

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

Register today for access to recent conferences. 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.

- Reimagining Libraries: Exploring the AI & VR Revolution in Library Services
- Libraries Address Inequities: Registration
- Amigos Member Conference 2023: Libraries Plan to Succeed
- Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion in Cataloging and Technical Services

Amigos Online Learning

Free for Members

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

- AI Tools and Prompts for Library Instruction January 22, 1:30 pm - 2:30 pm
- What’s New in Science Fiction and Fantasy January 29, 1:30 pm - 2:30 pm
- Climate Literacy and Climate Change Awareness February 12, 1:30 pm - 2:30 pm
- Creative Solutions in Cataloging, Acquisitions, and Resources Management February 15, 10:00 am
- Using TikTok at Your Library February 26, 1:30 pm - 2:30 pm
- Creating Effective Library Policies March 11, 1:30 pm - 2:30 pm
- Serving K-12 in the Academic Library March 18, 1:30 pm - 2:30 pm
- Documenting Library Work: Lessons We Can Learn from Technical Writers March 25, 1:30 pm - 2:30 pm

Continued on next page
Discounted for Members

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

- Cataloging with RDA January 10 -17, 10:30 am - 12:30 pm
- Entrepreneurial: Supporting Small Business Development in Libraries January 18, 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm
- Library Management: Workplace Communication January 30, 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm
- Bedbugs and Mold in Libraries: Identification and Mitigation February 21, 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm
- Collection Management: Selection and Acquisition March 5 -7, 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm
- Intermediate Cataloging: Subject Analysis March 12, 10:30 am - 12:30 pm
- Serving the Neurodiverse Library User March 26, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm
- Is this Feasible? Conducting Feasibility Studies in Libraries March 26, 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

University of Missouri – Kansas City

Meet James Smith, New Head of Collections & Acquisitions

James Smith (pronouns he/him) comes to the UMKC Libraries with many years of experience in cataloging, e-resources, collections, and acquisitions. He comes with solid knowledge of current trends in collection development. He also has experience in open access and purchasing as well as hands-on expertise with fiscal rollover and renewals. In his previous job at K-State’s Hale Library, Smith worked in a broad variety of roles and supported his team and colleagues through the major shutdowns and disruption associated with both the Hale Library fire in 2018 and the COVID-19 pandemic. His expertise with workflow analysis and documentation will be a great addition to our libraries as we complete our transition into FOLIO.

Smith holds a Bachelor of Arts in History and Political Science from Kansas State University and a Master of Library Sciences from Emporia State University. He worked for a time at Fort Riley with the U.S. Cavalry Association in their library. “I’m happy to be here at Miller Nichols Library and excited to get started,” Smith said. “What I enjoy most about working in libraries is that the work is always a bit different each day. You also never know what you come across either. I’ve had the privilege of working with limited editions collections, a vast number of cookbooks, and just helping colleagues every day. I also really enjoy the people that work in libraries. We all share a common goal and understand that we can provide expertise where we can to make life easier for each other.”

As the head of collections and acquisitions, Smith is responsible for oversight of the development, maintenance, and evaluation of the libraries’ physical and online collections. We look forward to welcoming Smith to our UMKC Libraries Team and working together as we move forward in our strategies with collection development and acquisitions. He began at the UMKC Libraries on Nov. 15.

Associate Dean Wins MCMLA Award

Congratulations to Brenda Linares, Associate Dean of Library Services, winner of the 2023 Bernice M. Hetzner Award for Excellence in Academic Health Science Librarianship from the MidContinental Chapter of the Medical Library Association. This award recognizes an academic health sciences librarian who has achieved a high level of professional accomplishment. Nominees are judged on academic health science library leadership or innovation as well as local group, chapter, and national participation and leadership in the Medical Library Association.
University of Missouri Libraries

Vice Provost for Libraries and University Librarian Deb Ward to Retire After More Than 25 Years of Service

On Nov. 13, 2023 University of Missouri Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Latha Ramchand announced that Deb Ward the vice provost for MU Libraries and University librarian, will retire on May 31, 2024. Ward’s more than 25-year career has spanned key roles, culminating in her appointment as interim and then permanent vice provost for MU Libraries and University Librarian Deb Ward.

Before accepting the position of vice provost, Ward served as the director of the J. Otto Lottes Health Sciences Library. During her tenure, Ward played a pivotal role in advancing the integration of electronic information delivery into health care, introducing clinical librarian services, and promoting the use of evidence-based information in healthcare delivery.

As the leader of MU Libraries, Ward navigated challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, ensuring uninterrupted library services while implementing safety protocols and managing a shutdown. Additionally, Ward spearheaded strategic space planning initiatives for Ellis Library, serving as the project director for an NEH challenge grant aimed at upgrading the West Stacks for Ellis Library to create a permanent location for distinctive collections.

One of Ward’s enduring legacies is her unwavering commitment to tailoring library services to meet the evolving needs of students and faculty throughout her years at MU.

“It has been an honor to serve the MU community and contribute to the growth and evolution of our libraries,” Ward said. “I am grateful for the opportunities and support I’ve received throughout my career. As I step into retirement, I look forward to witnessing the continued success and innovation of MU Libraries under new leadership.”

The university will commence a national search for a new vice provost for MU Libraries, with the desired start date of June 1, 2024. A number of constituent groups will be contacted for input and feedback on potential search committee members.

Jara Anderson Hired as Research and Instruction Librarian

The MU Libraries are pleased to announce that Jara Anderson has been hired as the research and instruction librarian for agriculture, natural resources and Extension. Jara has a Master of Library and Information Science from the University of Missouri and a Bachelor of Arts in English from Columbia College. She taught in Prague, Czech Republic, for three years before returning to Missouri for graduate school. She has been with MU Libraries since 2021, including as a graduate assistant in Digital Initiatives, library information assistant at the Health Sciences Library, and most recently as the senior library information specialist at the Veterinary Medical Library. Jara also has nearly eight years of experience as a freelance copywriter and grant writer, and she has helped numerous agricultural businesses across rural Missouri gain funding to expand their operations.

Katie Rahman Hired as Systems Librarian

The MU Libraries are pleased to announce that Jara Anderson has been hired as the research and instruction librarian for agriculture, natural resources and Extension. Jara has a Master of Library and Information Science from the University of Missouri and a Bachelor of Arts in English from Columbia College. She taught in Prague, Czech Republic, for three years before returning to Missouri for graduate school. She has been with MU Libraries since 2021, including as a graduate assistant in Digital Initiatives, library information assistant at the Health Sciences Library, and most recently as the senior library information specialist at the Veterinary Medical Library. Jara also has nearly eight years of experience as a freelance copywriter and grant writer, and she has helped numerous agricultural businesses across rural Missouri gain funding to expand their operations.
Library Surpasses One Million Digital Downloads

St. Charles City-County Library, for the first time in a calendar year, surpassed one million digital items borrowed in 2023 through the Libby app. The millionth item was a copy of Magnolia magazine checked out on December 3. This milestone reflects the library’s commitment to serving the community in new, innovative ways and the community’s support and need for the materials.

“Libraries are no longer simply about providing physical items,” said CEO Jason Kuhl. “As the way content is disseminated and consumed changes, we change with it. That’s what keeps us relevant in the lives of those in our community, but it also comes with challenges that need to be answered in terms of budget, technology support and strengthening partnerships with other libraries and organizations.”

Through different library digital platforms including Libby, Kanopy, Hoopla, Flipster and Tumblebooks, the community has 24/7 access to hundreds of thousands of resources like audiobooks, e-books and magazines. Through the reciprocal borrowing agreement with St. Louis Public Library and St. Louis County Library, St. Charles City-County Library can offer even more materials to cardholders.

“Technology continues to change how we consume information,” said Director of Collection Services, Carol Schrey. “More than 6.4 million items were borrowed from our library last year -- and of those more than 1.2 million checkouts were eMedia. Use of our digital products has grown more than 36% since the summer of 2020.”

The library offers favorite classics or the latest bestselling e-books, audiobooks, and more to patrons through Libby and other digital material platforms. The most popular genres among library readers this year were Fiction, Literature, Romance, Thriller, and Suspense.

The top five audiobooks the community borrowed were “Fourth Wing” by Rebecca Yarros, “Spare” by Prince Harry, “A Court of Thorns and Roses” by Sarah J. Mass, “Happy Place” by Emily Henry, and “A Court of Mist and Fury” by Sarah J. Mass.

The top five e-books library readers checked out were “It Starts With Us” by Colleen Hoover, “Verity” by Colleen Hoover, “It Ends With Us” by Colleen Hoover, “Lessons in Chemistry” by Bonnie Garmus, and “Happy Place” by Emily Henry.

Who’s inspiring you at your library? Nominate them!

Nominate someone to be our next Featured Library Employee! They could be:
…a new employee you’d like to introduce
…someone with a unique job or career path
…an employee you find inspirational or whose gifts you wish were more widely known

Submit name(s) and contact information, along with place of employment, to Bailey Compton at bcompton@stchlibrary.org. We’ll do all the work of contacting; we just need you to connect us!
Mid-Continent Public Library Celebrates New Branches

This past fall, Mid-Continent Public Library celebrated the grand openings of two brand-new buildings in its service area. The Library’s North Oak and Grain Valley Branches were both replaced with brand-new buildings as part of MCPL’s Capital Improvement Plan, which launched more than five years ago. The North Oak Branch was razed to the ground and rebuilt on the same lot to preserve its location, while the Grain Valley Branch moved from its leased storefront to a larger, new lot down the road.

Both branches expanded their footprints and added many upgraded amenities for customers to enjoy, including:

- Large program rooms for Library events and community forums
- Smaller meeting rooms for customers to reserve
- Dedicated children’s areas
- Teen spaces
- Upgraded technology throughout

The North Oak Branch added square footage by building upward across three levels, and has a number of unique features including its “reading stairs.” Enclosed by floor-to-ceiling windows and surrounded by nature, the new Grain Valley Branch offers a bright and beautiful ambience for customers. Both branches celebrated with special “book opening” ceremonies that included remarks from local officials, music, refreshments, and the giveaway of fine forgiveness tokens.

MCPL’s Capital Improvement Plan was made possible by increased funding from the passage of Proposition L by voters in 2016. 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.

The Plan is nearing completion with two more projects left—replacement of MCPL’s Riverside Branch and the addition of a brand-new East Independence Branch. Both are scheduled to be completed in 2024. More information about all of the Library’s construction projects can be found at mymcpl.org/Community.
Scenic Regional Library

Tonieboxes Added to Catalog

Scenic Regional Library has been awarded a grant from the Missouri Library Association Access and Innovation Fund for the purchase of 26 Tonieboxes, which are now circulating. A Toniebox is a durable audio player designed for small children to play stories and songs. Each Toniebox comes with a charger, an instructional insert, and six Tonie figures that contain the individual stories and songs. To use the Toniebox, simply turn it on and place one of the figures on top of the box.

In addition to the 26 Tonieboxes that have been added to the collection, the grant provided enough funds to purchase one additional Toniebox with two Tonie characters for a giveaway for those who participate in a survey about the Tonieboxes. A QR code to the survey will be included on the insert included with each box.

Tonieboxes may be checked out for two weeks, with one renewal.

Grant Awarded for Community Read Performance

Scenic Regional Library was awarded an LSTA Education Presenter Grant in the amount of $5,000 through the State Library. The grant will be used to host Clifton Truman Daniel, grandson of former President Harry S. Truman. Daniel will kick off the event's programming by performing the show "Give 'Em Hell Harry" at the East Central College Theater on Friday, March 1, 2024.

The library and its partners, East Central College and Washington Public Library, have been hard at work planning for the 2024 Community Read. The goal of the Community Read is to have as many people reading and discussing the same book at the same time. "Harry Truman's Excellent Adventure: The True Story of a Great American Road Trip" by Matthew Algeo is the selected title. Over four weeks, the library and its partners will distribute over 1,300 free copies of the book and present many programs representing the book's themes, including Harry Truman, memoirs, cars, road trips, U.S. presidents, and regional food.

MLA: Now with Rolling Memberships!

MLA membership approved a Bylaws change to have rolling membership, renewed on an anniversary basis. (Previously, renewals came each January 1.) So now, regardless of when you join, you’ll receive benefits for a year.

Renewing early? MLA now adds that time to your existing membership term, your additional membership year will begin when the current one ends.

All current MLA members will have an ‘anniversary date’ of January 1. Your membership year will remain the same as before, January 1-December 31. Only new MLA members or members who renew after being lapsed will be impacted by the rolling membership year change. For more information and FAQs, visit molib.org/membership
Oh, The Horror! Events Continue to Attract a Following

Once again, Springfield-Greene County Library hosted “Oh, The Horror!” in October. The Friends of the Library sponsor the events. Local History Librarian Konrad Stump reported, “The library's 2023 Oh, the Horror! programs attracted over 715 patrons and included everything from local lore and legends from Ozarks Alive founder Kaitlyn McConnell to a multimedia Ozarks Haunted Tales & Ghost Stories event with Sandi Green Baker and other artists, to author events with Clay McLeod Chapman, Mark Hartzman and Grady Hendrix. Over 925 people participated in our month-long mystery game, The Haunting of Kelch Manor.” The game was designed by Jay Young, the district’s graphic designer.

Jan Brett Visits Springfield

Stephanie Smallwood, youth services coordinator, reported, “The library was thrilled to host best-selling children’s author and illustrator Jan Brett on Saturday, Dec. 9, at the Library Center. Springfield was one of 23 cities to be part of her 2023 Winter Wonderland Tour, and 450 excited people were on hand to welcome her! Excited fans began arriving before the library opened, and over 100 received a ticket to get a book signed. Families oohed and ahhed when the bus covered in her artwork arrived at 9 a.m. and snapped pictures in front of it. More excitement happened when Hedgie (left, played by Collection Services Librarian Michelle Williams and helped by Miranda Eudaly) started roaming the crowd.”

Brett (below left) graciously signed books (below right) after sharing her research trip to Alaska to study the musk oxen. Ben Divin, digital imaging specialist, took these amazing pictures.
The Missouri Library Association, Columbia, MO, est. 1900, is the Missouri State Chapter of the American Library Association, Chicago, IL

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