DEAR READERS,

This year our campus is experiencing a beautiful golden fall, with warm temperatures and little rain, and of course the season has brought more changes to our University Libraries. If you have followed the news, you know new enrollment has been down slightly on the Mizzou campus, but retention of our continuing students is the highest on record. Certainly, we have not seen a decline in the use of the libraries, although we do see an approximate 5% to 10% recurring decrease in checkouts of books as more use continues to shift to online materials. We continue to have an average of 4000 users per day in Ellis Library, here to use our books and computers, seek assistance from librarians, and study, either alone or in groups. This fall we are doing a large survey of our faculty and graduate student users to assess their needs for the future. Our specialized libraries in Journalism, Engineering, Health Sciences, Math, Geology and Veterinary Medicine continue to have strong usage also.

Our biggest changes continue to be with personnel. After many years of exemplary service, Alla Barabtarlo has retired from Special Collections and Rare Books. We are conducting a national search to replace Mike Holland, who retired as head of Archives and head of the SCARAB Division of the Libraries last fall. Goodie Bhullar, head of library instruction for many years, also retired, and we hired her replacement, Joseph Askins, away from the University of South Carolina. Judy Maseles, long-time head of the Engineering Library, also retired in May, and the search for her successor continues.

Strategic planning, as part of the larger campus process, is on our agenda, and we look forward to making our case for the centrality of libraries to our campus values of Discovery, Respect, Responsibility and Excellence. Many new projects are beginning, and we have campus approval to build the expansion of our offsite book depository. We hope to have Board of Curators final approval in early 2018, and move forward. Plans for remodeling the space to be vacated in Ellis by the State Historical Society of Missouri also continue, as well as plans to remodel spaces in Special Collections as we look at transition to digital for much of our large microfilm collection. I hope this helps put the rest of this issue in context. The University Libraries are a better place due to your support, and I look forward to getting a chance to talk to many of you in person this year, either on campus or on other occasions.

Sincerely,
Ann Campion Riley
Vice Provost and University Librarian

AdvaNcemeNt

Welcome NeW

Cycle of Success

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UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI FALL EDITION NOVEMBER 2017

Libraries’ Collections Made More Accessible Through Digitization

Thanks to a generous gift from Steve and Mary Jane Smith, and everyone that supported the Friends of the Libraries fundraiser in June, we have been able to hire a graduate student to assist the Libraries’ Digital Services department with their efforts to increase the number of scholarly resources and rare treasures that can be accessed online, providing benefits to researchers here at MU and around the world. For example, when a researcher in New Jersey inquired about an Urdu newspaper from the 1890s -- the Paisa Akhbar -- it was determined that these fragile volumes were not good candidates for lending. However, once digitally preserved, they are easily utilized by anyone with a computer. Features common to digital libraries present other advantages, too. The capability to zoom means fine details of images in posters and photographs can be easily seen, and keyword searching makes it easier to find specific information.

How does the Digital Services department accomplish its work? After working with others to identify candidates for digitization, high-quality scanners are used to create digital facsimiles. Digital pages are reviewed and enhanced to improve viewing quality. When these steps are completed, the material is added to MOspace, our institutional repository, or placed in the MU Digital Library. Some of our digital resources can be found in the HathiTrust. As a HathiTrust partner, Mizzou is working with over 120 leading libraries to build a comprehensive digital library, that now includes over 2.5 million freely available books and serials.

The rich collections of the University Libraries provide an array of potential resources for digitization. Our current projects include digitization of original editorial cartoons from Special Collections by John T. McCutcheon, high demand print materials in Government Documents, books on typography from the Journalism Library, and MU course catalogs dating back to the 1890s. Our thanks to the donors helping us preserve and increase access to our collections!
JOSEPH ASKINS joined the Libraries as the head of instructional services. Joe has a Master of Library and Information Science from the University of Illinois and a Bachelor of Journalism from the University of Missouri. He is coming to us from the University of South Carolina, Columbia, where he was the information literacy programs librarian. Prior to working in South Carolina, Joe was the assistant librarian at Northwest Arkansas Community College in Bentonville.

JULIE HOUSKNECHT joined the Libraries as technical services librarian. She has previous experience as a tech services librarian at Reed Library, Fort Lewis College, and University of North Georgia Libraries. Julie has a Master of Library and Information Science from Florida State University and a Bachelor of Business Administration from Georgia State University.
Grace Atkins receives Missouri Library Association Outstanding New Librarian Award

The Missouri Library Association’s Outstanding New Librarian Award recognizes an early-career librarian who has made a significant contribution to the improvement and advancement of library and information services in the state of Missouri. Grace Atkins, the Outreach & Open Education Librarian for the University of Missouri Libraries, has been chosen for this year.

Atkins received her Master of Science in Information Studies from the University of Texas at Austin School of Information in May 2015. She entered into the position of User Engagement Librarian at the University of Missouri in August 2015, and worked to improve the user experience in Ellis Library. Over the two-year period she has been at Mizzou, her role has evolved into outreach for all nine libraries on campus.

This past year, Atkins has focused on communication and marketing to reach library users. As the liaison for student outreach, she established a University Libraries Student Advisory Council, which has greatly improved communication between library administration and student leaders. In Spring 2017, she partnered with MU’s Student Affairs office to pass a student fee through which a portion of the funding goes toward student-focused library services, such as keeping the main library open 24 hours a day, 5 days a week.

In her role as an Open Education librarian, Atkins is a campus coordinator for a UM system’s Affordable & Open Educational Resources (AOER) initiative, which is working to create a more equitable learning environment for students by significantly reducing the cost of textbooks and other course materials. As a new MOBIUS system leader for the Open Textbook Library, she will be providing training to librarians throughout the statewide consortia on how to use the Open Textbook Library. She has also recently been named a national fellow for the new SPARC Open Education Leadership program.

Tell us a little about your background and experience?

I have a BFA in painting and a BA in English Literature from Truman State University. In May 2017, I earned my Master of Arts Degree in Information Science and Learning Technologies with an emphasis in Library Science (what a mouthful!).

While at Truman State University, I was a student assistant in the physical processing unit at Pickler Library. I started at Ellis Library in 1994.

What’s the most arduous task you have?

Hands down, the most arduous task is disaster recovery. Disaster recovery is mentally and physically exhausting. In addition, for library staff, damage to the physical collection and the building elicit strong emotions that last well into the recovery process.

During the 2011 fire, it was difficult to work against the clock, directing the salvage of physical library materials, finding resources needed to continue the effort, acting as mediator between areas with different priorities while dealing with the emotional and psychological ramifications of the vandalism.

After the initial recovery effort, library routine goes back to normal, but recovery of damaged library materials is an ongoing process for Technical Services staff long after the initial event.

You currently work on preservation, but are still learning conservation. What is the difference between the two?

Preservation treatment and conservation treatment require similar hand skills but the decision-making, purpose, and philosophy differ. Preservation prolongs the life of library materials in the general collection, allowing them to remain viable to the user with the idea that they are not currently rare and can be replaced or are owned by a large number of other institutions. Conservation is performed to prolong the life of the item for a benchmark of 300 years (as long as it is kept in the proper environment) with an eye towards retaining the content and the historical significance of the physical object, and as much of the original materials and structure as possible. The idea is to do only as much as is necessary to keep the material stable using materials and processes that will not increase deterioration and are reversible if needed.

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Cycle of Success is the idea that libraries, faculty, and students are linked; for one to truly succeed, we must all succeed. The path to success is formed by the connections between University of Missouri Libraries and faculty members, between faculty members and students, and between students and the libraries that serve them. More than just success, this is also a connection of mutual respect, support, and commitment to forward-thinking research.

Dr. Noah Heringman, the Catherine Paine Middlebush Professor of English at MU, was recently awarded, along with his team, a National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) grant to complete their digital edition of Vestusta Monumenta. Vestusta Monumenta was the first of four major publication series launched by the Society of Antiquaries of London in the eighteenth century. The project may be viewed at vetustamonumenta.org.

“Kelli Hansen of Special Collections help[ed] us a great deal during the early stages of the process. She gave Amy Jones, [our first research assistant], access to the division’s Indus 9000 book scanner and taught her how to use the software needed for processing the images. After Amy graduated in 2013, two more key players came on board the project: Felicity Dykas, who is now the head of Digital Services in Ellis, and Kristen Schuster, a PhD student in the iSchool, who became Amy’s replacement. Felicity and her team took over the scanning project and scanned the remaining five volumes of Vetusta Monumenta at a uniformly high standard of excellence and added them to the University of Missouri Digital Library using the library’s Islandora content management system. In these early years, we got excellent support from other librarians, including Mike Holland, Anne Barker, Ann Riley, Ala Barabtarlo, and others.”
Entrepreneurship Bootcamp for Veterans (EBV) is a “one-of-a-kind initiative designed to leverage the skills, resources and infrastructure of higher education to offer cutting-edge, experiential training in entrepreneurship and small business management to post-9/11 veterans with service-connected disabilities and a passion for entrepreneurship. Gwen Gray, an MU social science librarian, serves as one of the 11 EBV librarians around the country, and is the support person for these participants while they are on campus, and after they leave.

The program includes library instruction and access to a guide created by Gwen. The guide includes information they can only access while here, links to free sites, and also links to the EBV Info Portal that participants have access to one year after starting the program. Gwen also sends the participants home with a handout, specific to each veteran, that includes information on public and academic libraries in their home areas as well as other sources of help to local entrepreneurs.

Robert Altenbrend recently participated in EBV, and had some kind words to say about Gwen’s help: “I am currently attending the EBV in-residence phase at Mizzou. I was having difficulties finding research data on starting a veteran support nonprofit. Gwen Gray was very helpful and found several resources that will assist with this project. This type of customer service and professionalism should be commended and reflects positive on Mizzou.”

Erin Dannecker is an Associate Professor in the Department of Physical Therapy. Since 2004, she has been teaching Evidence-Based Practice to between 44 to 60 Doctorate of Physical Therapy students with Rebecca Graves’ assistance. “Health professionals must learn how to search literature databases quickly and efficiently because they have little time in between treating patients. Rebecca teaches our students to do just that by delivering professional lecture recordings, a guest lecture, and individual tutoring. Without Rebecca’s expert and dedicated assistance, I would have to decrease the rigor of the course’s assignments dramatically.”

Rebecca has also helped Erin with her own literature searches, which Erin tells her students. “I’m always hesitant to write ‘no studies were located’ in a manuscript without using the literature searching skills I have learned from Rebecca and sometimes asking Rebecca to double check for me. It is important for our students to hear about collaboration among researchers, clinicians, patients, and academic librarians and to make the most of the amazing resources that the Health Sciences Library offers such as fast and free interlibrary loans and online and face-to-face training.”

Dr. Noah D. Manring is the Glen A. Barton Professor of fluid power in the Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering Department at MU. He previously served as chairman of the college’s Electrical and Computer Engineering Department and twice has served as associate dean of research. One of the courses he teaches is Engineering 2500: A History of Modern Engineering. It is through teaching this class that Dr. Manring came to know Tim Perry, one of our Special Collections Librarians. Tim arranged a lecture and demonstration on the printing press to teach the students about the history of the book, and the progression of book making since Gutenberg’s printing press in the 1450s. “Tim arranged an entire demonstration and working lecture for our students. He answered questions, translated texts, and explained the significance of each item that was shown. There were three tables full of items to show and discuss. It was a very rich experience for my class – something I could not have provided for our students on my own. The library has a tremendous collection of printed material since Gutenberg’s day, including an original page from a Gutenberg Bible!”
Judith Goodman, the Interim Associate Dean of Research for the School of Health Professions, and Gina Scavone, Executive Assistant to the Associate Deans, contacted the Health Sciences Library for help with gathering journal, article, and author metrics for all School of Health Professions faculty. Gina had previously asked for help in Summer 2016 when she was asked to find this same information, but wasn’t sure where to start. Taira Meadowcroft sat down with Gina to show her how she gathered this information, and, along with Rachel Alexander and Gemille Purnell, gathered the required metrics. Fast forward to Spring 2017, when the School of Health Professions asked for updated metrics for their newly added faculty.

“We needed to have the most up-to-date data concerning our faculty’s research profiles with a ridiculously quick turnaround for a presentation. We asked Taira Meadowcroft to find both the WOS and Scopus annual and cumulative number of publications and citations, the h-index, and journal impact factors for each tenured/tenure-track faculty member in the School of Health Professions. She did this efficiently and cheerfully! This partnership of MU Libraries and SHP enabled us to quickly pull together a presentation of SHP’s research growth for UM’s new president. We were so grateful for Taira [and the library’s] help in letting us tell our story.”

R. B. MOODY’S GREAT GRANDDAUGHTER

In June 2017, Kellie Green stopped into the Zalk Veterinary Medical Library after having been at the Veterinary Health Center with her mom and her mom’s dog Stella. Kellie wondered if the library could help her find out any information about her great grandfather, R. B. Moody. She knew that he had been on the College of Veterinary Medicine (CVM) faculty, but wasn’t sure exactly when.

With that information, Kate Anderson, Head of Zalk Library, and Sue Giger, Library Information Assistant, went to work. One of the best sources of CVM history is the digitized collection of Veterinary Medical Review, the College’s newsletter published from 1967 to 2007. Because this MOspace collection is full-text searchable, they could quickly pinpoint articles of interest and send them to Kellie. They found that R. B. Moody served on the Mizzou faculty from 1948-1951 and went on to work for the USDA’s Missouri office.

Kellie was thrilled to find out these bits of information that help fill in some gaps in their family’s knowledge: “Oh my goodness! I am overwhelmed with gratitude! I cannot thank you both enough for taking time out of your day to research this for our family! My grandma will be overjoyed. He is greatly missed. It is so nice to see his handsome face on that graduation photo I can’t wait to relay the info to my mom and grandma!”

MISSOURI SCHOLARS ACADEMY STUDENTS RESEARCH HISTORICAL & CULTURAL INFLUENCES ON LITERATURE

The Missouri Scholars Academy brings 330 gifted rising high school juniors from around the state to our campus. Instructor Ben Batzer’s students were researching late twentieth-century topics that related science to science fiction. Rachel Brekhus, Humanities and Social Sciences Librarian, guided the students by giving them a tour of Ellis Library and showing them how to find primary historical sources and secondary scholarly sources. She demonstrated how to use online databases to find scholarly information and historical newspapers.

“My students worked with Rachel in conducting periodical research,” Ben said, “which allowed them to pursue queries of their own choosing in order to better understand the historical and cultural influences that bear on literary production. For many students, this project was the most sustained research they had ever conducted.”

Here are a few of the many positive remarks students had about their experience working with Rachel.

• Thank you for guiding us through the magical world of the library!
• I’ve spent a lot of time in that library and I probably would have gotten lost if it wasn’t for you!
• Thank you for sharing your passion for research and your love of the library with us!
The Routledge Handbook of Landscape and Food, to be published in 2018, features the chapter “Using the Senses to Write Food Culture and Landscape” by MU’s own Nina Mukerjee Furstenau. As Director of Food Systems Communication and Instructor in Science and Agricultural Journalism, Nina has relied on Noel Kopriva, whom she calls “a jewel in the crown of subject librarians,” for research help many times.

When Nina found herself in need of Linda Hillemann, Clinical Instructor/Online Education and Field Support Specialist in the School of Social Work, works off campus and supports online students in southern Missouri. She was updating a lecture on the history of social work on Canvas when she realized she didn’t have a credit for a diagram by Mary Richmond, one of the founders of social work. After searching all the sites she knew with all the search terms she could think of to no avail, she contacted her subject librarian, Kimberly Moeller, for help.

Kimberly was able to reverse engineer a search, and Linda says, “A mere two hours later I had the reference and a link to the document.” Kimberly found the original pencil drawing in conference proceedings over a century old. Kimberly provided Linda with a link to the scanned version of the proceedings available through the digital library Hathi Trust, which meant she had immediate access. Linda had never seen the conference proceedings before and found it be a fascinating historical document. More importantly, it provided the reference she needed to include vital information in her course.