GREETINGS FROM THE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

In this edition of Library Connections, you will find many great photos and news about the activities underway. As usual, we combine excellence in traditional library work as well as more growth in our services and support of the academic success of our students and research success of our campus faculty. Your support helps us do all that.

Most of you have heard that on October 2, our MU Provost Latha Ramchand shared the news of my retirement with the campus community. I informed her of my decision back in July, and she gave me several months to see if I would change it (no, I haven’t). My decision is driven by my desire to move on to the next stage of my life, and to spend more time with my young grandchildren (while they are still young!). I’ve been a librarian for forty years, and will always love the central role libraries play in research and learning, but feel it’s time for me to focus on supporting libraries from the outside rather than the inside.

As I look back I feel a slight tug that reminds me of the work that awaits my successor. In a great library, all leaders are travelers passing through, trying to leave it stronger than we found it, and knowing that like great institutions, it will endure.

I hope you will each make a point of supporting the University Libraries’ future leadership. During my time as University Librarian, I’ve seen how important gift dollars are to meeting the needs of our students and faculty, and to fulfilling our commitment to the larger world of academic libraries. Library endowment expenditures have averaged over $500,000 annually over the last few years, with gifts of cash adding significantly to that in any given year. You’ve responded to our requests for Mizzou Giving Day, sponsored Friends of the Libraries events, contributed to our annual fund, bought books from our Wish List and given us amazing treasures in the form of rare books, maps, manuscripts and more. I’ll carry a strong sense of gratitude for all of your contributions with me into the next phase of my life, and I wanted to take a moment to say thanks to each of you. I’ve enjoyed getting to know many of you, and hope I will see you at future events.

Sincerely,
Mizzou Librarian Selected as SPARC Open Education Leadership Fellow

Joe Askins, head of instructional services for the University Libraries, has been selected as a fellow in the SPARC Open Education Leadership Program, an intensive professional development program to empower library professionals with the knowledge, skills and community connections to lead successful open education initiatives that benefit students. The two-semester program blends online, peer-to-peer and project-based learning to build a comprehensive understanding of the open education space coupled with practical know-how to take action on campus and beyond. Askins is one of 27 fellows selected from a competitive application pool for the program’s 2019-2020 cohort.

Ward to Serve as Interim

Deborah Ward will serve as the interim vice provost and university librarian for the University Libraries following Ann Campion Riley’s retirement. She will serve in this capacity while a national search takes place. Ward has been the director of the MU Health Sciences Libraries, which includes the J. Otto Lottes Health Sciences Library and the Zalk Veterinary Medical Library, for over 20 years. In 2016, she also became the associate university librarian for specialized libraries. Ward has been active in local, regional and national library organizations. Ms. Ward was a co-creator of the Missouri AHEC Digital Library, an information service for health care providers in the state of Missouri, created in partnership with the Mid-Missouri Area Health Education Center. In addition, she has been the principle investigator for the Missouri Coordinator for the National Network of Libraries of Medicine since 2002. She is a partner with three other campus collaborators in the three-year project “Librarians as Catalysts for Healthy Communities,” funded by the Institute of Library and Museum Services. Previously, Ward held a number of administrative appointments at three other academic health sciences libraries. She earned a Bachelor of Arts in German and Master of Arts in education from Eastern Kentucky University. She also earned a Master of Library Science from the University of Kentucky.
In October, the University Libraries hired two new librarians. Taylor Kenkel is joining the University Libraries as a technical services librarian. Taylor will serve as the online catalog and circulation systems manager for MERLIN, and is responsible for the overall maintenance of the ILS for the University of Missouri System. Taylor has a Master of Library and Information Studies degree from the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, BC, and a Bachelor of Arts degree in journalism from American University in Washington, DC. Previously, Taylor worked as a technical services and metadata librarian at Hollins University in Roanoke, VA.

The University Libraries hired Jennifer Thompson as electronic resources librarian for the University of Missouri System. Jennifer has a Master of Library and Information Science degree from the University of South Carolina, and a Bachelor of Arts Degree from the University of Virginia, where she studied religion and architectural history. It was while studying the design of the Boston Public Library that she fell in love with libraries. Previously, Jennifer served as technology and resource sharing consultant for the Missouri State Library and as director of the library at the American College of the Building Arts in Charleston, SC.

In Memoriam

WILLIAM CRABB

William Crabb, 95, of Columbia, a dedicated friend of the libraries for many years, passed away on Sunday, October 6, 2019 due to pneumonia. Bill was born on September 7, 1924 and raised in Williamsburg, Kansas with his five siblings. He served in the U.S. Navy. After his service he attended the University of Kansas, on the GI Bill, where he earned a degree in engineering. In 1951 he married Carol Pinney. In 1968 the family moved to Columbia where he later started his own company, Telecom Engineers, which flourished until his retirement in the 1980s. During his life he enjoyed taking his children on summer car camping trips to national parks and historically significant sites, extensively traveling the world, following basketball and walking the trails in town. Bill was predeceased by his wife, Carol. He is survived by children Richard (Janice), Jim, Jennifer (Chris) and Tom (Wendy) along with six grandchildren and many nieces, nephews and friends.

JANE VETTER

Jane Andrae Vetter was born in Jefferson City, Missouri on February 18, 1941. As a graduate from the University of Missouri she was active in a variety of local and state organizations and she served on the Board of the Friends of the University of Missouri Libraries. Jane was also a member of the Chancellor’s Residence Preservation Committee that oversaw the restoration of the Chancellor’s Residence on the Quad at the University of Missouri. Jane enjoyed spending her time outside whether that was playing tennis or gardening. She is survived by her husband Tom, her daughter Walton Goldring and their sons Stephen and Zachary, and her son Thomas Alex Vetter, Jr. and his wife Johanna of Chicago and their children Henry and Ana. She is also survived by her sisters Mary Pool and Helen Harrison, and was predeceased by her sister Carol Andrae.

DR. DONALD A.B. LINDBERG

Dr. Donald A. B. Lindberg, former director of the National Library of Medicine for over 30 years and MU professor of Pathology passed away on August 17, 2019. In 1960 Dr. Lindberg joined the pathology department at the University of Missouri School of Medicine. He taught at MU for 24 years and became Director of the Information Science Group. While at MU, Dr. Lindberg developed applications and systems to computerize medical records and laboratory results. He soon cultivated an international reputation for his expertise with medical information systems. Dr. Lindberg was the Director of the National Library of Medicine (NLM) from 1984-2015. Prioritizing innovation and focusing on the potential future of the computer and communications technologies, Dr. Lindbergh drove the Library forward in building databases and digital records systems that become international standards in medical information. He is survived by his wife, Mary Musick Lindberg, a brother Charles Frank Lindberg and his sons Donald Allen Bror Lindbergh II and Jonathan Edward Moyer Lindberg and their families. A third son, Christopher Lindberg, passed away in 1996.
What if future generations never got the chance to hear recordings of Martin Luther King’s “I Have a Dream” speech? Or if news stories and footage of 9/11 were lost to history?

While it might seem ludicrous to imagine losing such key moments of history, the truth is that many news organizations are struggling to preserve digital files of stories, recordings and video. Though technology has advanced greatly, many historians and news organizations are trying to find new ways to organize their digital archives and store them safely.

Now, a team at the University of Missouri is working to help preserve history.

Taking on a Thorny Challenge

The Donald W. Reynolds Journalism Institute (RJI) and University of Missouri Libraries received a $250,000 grant this fall from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to help ensure the survival of today’s digital news record for future generations.

During a year long project, a team from the Journalism Digital News Archive, a joint initiative of RJI and University Libraries, plans to visit news outlets across the U.S. and Europe. Edward McCain, digital curator of journalism at RJI and the MU Libraries, said that during these visits, the team will identify what’s hampering the process of preserving online content by examining the outlets’ technology, workflows and policies.
"Born-digital content," or content which originates from computer chips or digital sensors, can disappear forever or become inaccessible if not preserved because of several factors. These include a lack of policies, technology failures, obsolete technologies, newsroom closures and ransomware strikes. As content becomes more technologically complex, such as journalism reports stored in digital databases, the industry needs a set of best practices to keep content accessible in the future.

McCain said the team will produce a report highlighting what they learn, including best practices for properly providing long-term access to digital news archives.

"The preservation of digital media continues to be a priority of the Scholarly Communications program at Mellon," said Patricia Howe, program officer at the Mellon foundation. "Our efforts in audiovisual preservation, web archiving and software curation all speak to concerns for the long-term availability of cultural heritage content and documentary evidence, both of which are crucial to humanities scholarship. The preservation of online news content, particularly as news outlets flourish and fail, is a particularly thorny challenge, and the grant to the University of Missouri will help the foundation understand much better what the priorities for support should be."

The team will consist of about 10 researchers, including individuals from MU Libraries, the Missouri School of Journalism and outside consultants such as AVP (formerly Audio-Visual Preserve) and RJI Fellow Neil Mara, who previously worked at The McClatchy Company. Mara’s research at RJI focuses on innovative ideas that leverage a newsroom’s archived content, particularly content with a potential return on investment. Mara said he wants to demonstrate the value of past news content to readers to incentivize preservation.

“The track record for saving digital news hasn’t been that great for the news industry, but we at RJI believe there’s light at the end of the tunnel,” said Randy Picht, executive director of the Reynolds Journalism Institute. “We’re looking forward to finding that light and a whole lot more thanks to our friends at the Mellon Foundation.”

“We are grateful for this support from the Mellon Foundation to help Mizzou archive the all-important first drafts of history as reported in the digital age,” said Ann Riley, vice provost for libraries and university librarian at the MU University Libraries.

Building on Commitment to Preserving Content

This project builds on work done during the Journalism Digital News Archive’s five Dodging the Memory Hole conferences, which brought together librarians, memory institutions, newsroom leaders and others between 2014 and 2017 to have conversations about how to preserve and protect “the first rough draft of history.” However, McCain said it became apparent that there was a need to engage more directly with news outlets that produce and own the content. “What they decide to do with digital news content is critical to the survival of it,” McCain said. “If news content doesn’t make it beyond the life of the news outlet or if it doesn’t make it to the scholarly record, then all of our efforts are lost. It doesn’t matter how many libraries and archives are there to help, if the content disappears before the memory institutions get it, there’s nothing they can do. That historical record is gone.”

Edward McCain, digital curator of journalism at RJI and the University Libraries.
Why do we tell stories? They are what connects our past, present and future and it is through the telling of these stories that the University of Missouri has been shaped into the institution it is today. The University Archives is the official collection of our stories, they provide access to verified, factual content that tells our Mizzou story through photographs, manuscripts, film and interesting artifacts. The University Archives is celebrating its 50th Anniversary this year and these stories are just a small glimpse into our university’s history. Pride in our institution is rooted in the understanding of our collective accomplishments, and it is the University Archives that serves as the keeper of our pride. In 1991 the University Archives officially became a part of the University of Missouri Libraries but has been housed in Lewis and Clark Halls since its beginning in 1969. With generous support from our donors like you we are going to bring the University Archives to their new home in Ellis Library.

Program cover of the December 11, 1896 football game the Mizzou Tigers played against the University of Texas in Mexico. This program has Tom Shawhan, the captain of the football team, on the cover and it is signed by George Harrison English, the manager of the football team, and it commemorates the tour of exhibition games played.

In 1950 George C. Scott, a journalism student at the University of Missouri, came to the open auditions for the play, The Winslow Boy. Scott, according to MU professor and director Donovan Rhynsburger, had never been on the stage before but it was “very evident at that time that he was the best person in the tryouts” for the lead male role of barrister Sir Robert Morton.

In the fall of 1933, Walter Williams – the first Dean of the School of Journalism, a former member of the Board of Curators, and president of the University from 1931-1935—and his wife Sara Lockwood Williams set out on a world tour that lasted six months, covered more than 30,000 miles, and visited 28 countries. These clips of footage are of the Williamses among the pigeons at St. Mark’s Square in Venice.

Donald G. Sanders, University of Missouri alum and lawyer in Columbia, was on the Senate Select Committee on Presidential Campaign Activities, otherwise known as the Watergate Committee, in July 1973. He and Scott Armstrong interviewed Alexander Butterfield, and this is where Butterfield revealed the White House audio taping practices, which eventually led to President Nixon resigning from his position. This is a page from Sander's monthly planner.
Thank you to all our sponsors and guests for your support of the University Archives.

January 16, 1960, a group of MU alumni and friends met for lunch in the Student Union and resolved to organize a group called the “Friends of the University of Missouri Libraries.” Today, the Friends of the University of Missouri Libraries mission is to build a broad base of engaged support to advocate for the University Libraries in the preservation, creation and use of knowledge.

This event, hosted by the Friends of the University of Missouri Libraries, benefitted the University Archives and was held at the State Historical Society of Missouri.

Ann Campion Riley - Vice Provost and University Librarian, Sally and Don Schilling, and Gena Scott

Gary Kremer, executive director of The State Historical Society of Missouri, giving remarks during the program

Ellen, past president of Friends of the Libraries, and Tom Rippeto

Curator of the art gallery Dr. Joan Stack doing tours of the art gallery.

Our audience members engaged in the program in the beautiful space at the State Historical Society of Missouri.

A snapshot of the wonderful art gallery

Photos by Scott Peterson
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