

Book Sale 2000

What happened with the books:

- 8 boxes of books sold to Nancy's Trade a Book
- 8 boxes of books sold to English Department
- About 1/3 of books were sold, remainder recycled.

In general, the sale totals were down about \$1000.00 from the 1998 sale, with a gross of about \$13,500.00. Not every year can be a record year. Final expenses from the sale are not in yet, but will probably be a bit higher than previous years because we paid Civic Recycling to haul off the remnants from the sale.

Staffing was adequate, if thin at times.

Evaluative Comments: The Good, The Bad and The Ugly

Good:

- Paying Civic Recycling to take the book remnants.
- Campus Movers loaded most books on Wednesday, had everything delivered by 10:00 AM Thursday
- Using the Field House
- Boxes to reshelve rejects as people sorted their books went well
- Movers moved most boxes Wednesday. This helped tremendously. All books were there by 10:00 AM. Work was mostly done by mid-afternoon.
- Recycling worked well. Need the full truck-sized bin (20 cubic yards??)

Bad:

- Staffing. Ended up having enough only because the movers finished early and some people stayed late or came in while off the clock. Please rotate the schedule before sales!!

Ugly

- Preview. It was poorly attended (< 10, mostly staff). Refreshments were untouched. Book dealers were irate, a few verbally abusive, and making calls to the Chancellor. MU Police were called. It was very bad PR for the library, while film crews were there. We strongly recommend against holding previews at the book sales in the future.

Suggestions for Future Sales:

Major:

The sale is normally a very positive thing for MU Libraries, as well as the Friends of the Libraries and the State Historical Society. The amount of money received, while nice for MULSA, is not the only goal of the sale. Most importantly for the MU Libraries, the sale promotes donations to MU Libraries and many of those donations and private libraries are later added to library collections, including some very significant titles which go to Special Collections. Problems recruiting people were partly because of staffing shortages in some areas and because of the difficulty of getting away from public service areas. Department heads can help by strongly encouraging staff to participate and working with public service staff to arrange time off the desk to participate. Departments need to work together on this!

Finally, the book sale has the potential to be much bigger if promoted strongly. Concurrent with that would be an evaluation of the sale and how to best structure it so it uses the least amount of library staff time while maximizing promotional exposure for MU Libraries. One idea is to hold mini sales more frequently (perhaps in the west concourse area), where book titles would be those of more interest to students, which do not patronize the current sales much. Such occasional sales might cater to on-campus users seeking popular material, while the higher-value items that draw vendors might be held back for the biennial event.

Minor:

- Should have a separate table with Friends of the Libraries information and a place they can join. This might work well beside the silent Auction tables so it is always staffed.
- Needed to clear the auction area of people when auction closed. Some books “disappeared” or were put out in error by trying to move without a full accounting. Must quickly move books out that did not sell so they can be purchased before \$1.00/bag starts.
- Must empty sale area of people before starting the \$1.00 per bag pricing. All piles of books must be reshelfed.
- Needed to have a better accounting of number of boxes in each category. Some were not counted this sale period, and it made apportioning the number of tables quite difficult. Plan on 3-4 boxes of books per table.
- Need to separate paperback from hardback fiction. Have a separate category for romance novels.
- Need to have clearer signs on the prices for books--paperbacks, etc., especially for the staffers checking out books.
- Have a secure room for purses, money.

Community Service Chairs' Report

In the past year, we collected 132 pounds of food in two food drives for the Central Missouri Food Bank. Jessica Longaker sent 9 boxes of clothes to the Bluebird Closet, which provides clothes, toys and toiletries to underprivileged children in rural Missouri.

The relationship between MULSA and the Second Chance no-kill animal shelter remains strong. MULSA members adopted several pets from the shelter and contributed in-kind donations of pet supplies.

Funds were raised to provide Christmas gifts to a needy family in Columbia.