

Celebration of Service

April 12, 2006

And now, as is my habit for the past three of these events, I'm pleased to review some of the defining moments that we've shared over the past year. I want to apologize in advance if my list differs from those that you may see as significant achievements of the past twelve months. As you have no doubt heard before, "The decision of the judges is final." So I give you my choice of outstanding achievements for 2005/2006.

- The James B. Nutter Family Information Commons in Ellis Library continues to be a success story. We have had a 40% increase in traffic in Ellis Library since its opening, and in Winter Semester, we extended the hours of Ellis until 2am, Sunday through Thursday, in order to accommodate the increased demands of students.
- Renovations in Engineering Library. The Engineering Library and Technology Center in Lafferre Hall was rededicated in February, and students have flocked to the facility. We have recently extended the hours until midnight, Sunday thru Thursday.
- Major renovation in 102-103 Ellis Library so that staff and students in Interlibrary Borrowing, Interlibrary Lending and Circulation may work more efficiently and be more productive in assisting patrons.
- The Journalism Library moved from Walter Williams Hall to the Neff Annex, into less than commodious quarters. This is all in preparation for the renovation and expansion of the Library as part of the new Reynolds Institute, opening in Fall, 2007. The move involved the work of MANY staff from a variety of units, including Sue Schuermann and Cindy Dudenhoffer of course, but also Cataloging staff, Access Services, Ellis Reference and Libraries Administration.
- This Fall a new MU Libraries Faculty Lecture Series was implemented. Thus far, three lectures have been held in Ellis Library and were well-attended. More scheduled.

- Library Issues Forums inaugurated. Uniformly excellent programs ranging from Top Technology Trends; Future of the Catalog in the Google environment; How do the Libraries adapt to change; Communications, Marketing, and Public Relations; and next a program on Digital Projects.
- Room 201 in Ellis Library, also known as the Reading Room, was the site of two major events – National Steering Committee/Jefferson Club Trustee dinner in April, 2005 and Board of Curators reception in January, 2006. Past president of Board of Curators, Tom Atkins, was honored. Some of our special collections items were showcased at both events.
- Honor with Books program was introduced this time last year. Approximately \$8,000 in gift purchases raised so far through this program.
- New Books List for Ellis Library. Especially helpful for Humanists and Social Scientists. Must also mention availability of similar book list for HSL holdings. Hope to expand list to include all MU Library locations and currently exploring possibility of dealing with approval books the same way.
- UM Electronic Initiative. Contracts were concluded this past year for approximately \$140,000 in additional Life Sciences Resources acquired with funds from the UM Electronic Initiative funds. Funding from the initiative and matching funds from the four UM campuses have added almost \$1 million in electronic resources in the past two years.
- Open URL Resolver contract awarded after a long committee and procurement process. An Open URL resolver is so important because it will allow researchers to quickly and easily identify from the point they find a citation of interest how to acquire the item, that is, whether the item is available full-text online (and link directly to the article), in print at the Libraries or available through interlibrary loan.

- Continuing development of the collaborative “MAHEC Digital Library” for Missouri’s health professionals, developed through a partnership of the HSL and Missouri’s Area Health Education Centers.
- Libraries Communications/Marketing/PR Task force was established, and the members have been working with journalism students to formulate a marketing plan. Results in May, 2006.
- Libraries Organizational Review effort. ORTF was established in October, began meeting in November, and submitted its recommendations in January. In February a series of forums reviewed the recommendations and JC has begun implementing most of them. Next week, we hope to post on the web a Gant chart listing those recommendations and tracking progress in implementation. Announcement soon.
- Grants received by Libraries. Over the past twelve months, the MU Libraries have received 11 grants from a variety of funding agencies, for a total of more than \$104,000. The grants include such projects as: the SCARaB grant of over \$62k to digitize the Ag Extension papers from 1888 to 2005, and two University Archives grants of approx. \$10k to restore and digitize rare film footage of Walter Williams and the MU campus from the 1930’s.