

MU Libraries – Top Ten List

May 21, 2012

Introduction

This is my tenth year of attending our annual Celebration of Service, and the eighth year that I've chosen to review some of the defining moments of the past twelve months. So here is the latest iteration of the "Top Ten List," brought to you with the help of your elected members of the Library Assembly. I invite each of them to join me here at the podium.

Here is this year's Top Ten List of notable achievements by the largest public research library in Missouri.

10. Acquisition of Unique Collections

- Two major collections have recently been presented to the MU Libraries:
 1. The **Confucius Institute gift** collection of 1,500 books and other materials on Chinese language and culture arrived earlier this month. The materials are a result of the partnership announced last year between MU and the People's Republic of China.
 2. Over thirty boxes of the **papers and manuscripts of the late Lanford Wilson**, have also been received. Wilson was a Missouri native and Pulitzer prize-winning playwright, who pioneered the off-off Broadway theater movement. Among his many plays are *The Fifth of July*, *Talley's Folly*, and *Hot I Baltimore*.

9. e-Learning collaboration

- In October, the RAIS Division began a collaborative effort with Vice Provost for Undergraduate Studies, Jim Spain, to coordinate e-Learning instruction efforts across campus.
 - The new Mizzou Online e-Learning initiative combines the work of the former MU Direct distance learning program and CDIS, the Center for Distance and Independent Study.

8. Enhanced Security Initiatives

- The Active Threat program, in collaboration with MUPD, was instituted to train key staff members on how to react to life-safety dangers that are occurring on campus around the country.
 - Two separate sessions have been held in Ellis Library, and others are planned to enable more staff members to receive training.

- We received a \$20,000 grant from the SFCIC (Student Fee Capital Improvement Committee) to install new cameras and a new computer server to enhance surveillance in Ellis Library.
 - New equipment will be installed over the summer.

7. Public Programs and Exhibits

- Faculty Lecture Series continued, with four lectures during the year, featuring Professors Doug Randall, Ingolf Gruen, Carol Ward and Laurel Wilson.
- Public events include programs on the New Madrid Earthquakes; Open Access; Copyright and Fair Use; the Pro Arte string quartet in performance; three separate programs for Black History Month; Poetry by Toi Derricotte; and a special program on the Holocaust which saw our largest single audience in the Ellis Colonnade.
- The second annual Undergraduate Research Paper Contest resulted in \$500 first prize and \$250 second prize to students in English and History respectively, awarded in April, at the Friends of Libraries Luncheon.
 - Funded by Friends of Libraries and assisted by MU Library Committee
 - There were more submissions with greater overall quality than last year (according to one faculty reviewer)
- And we had a full complement of exhibits, including:
 - The Civil War in Missouri, June, 2011
 - Russian Historical Maps, July, 2011
 - One Hundred Years of Coming Home, in October, as part of MU's centennial celebration of Homecoming
 - Food Revolutions: Science and Nutrition 1700 – 1920, in March, 2012, in conjunction with the annual Life Sciences Symposium
 - Dime Novels from Special Collections, continuing this month.

6. Major library events during the past year

- In September, at the Health Sciences Library 25th Anniversary Forum, we honored Dr. Donald Lindberg, Director of the National Library of Medicine and a former MU faculty member.
 - Many dignitaries and guests were on hand to pay tribute both to the J. Otto Lottes Health Sciences Library and to Dr. and Mrs. Lindberg.
- 150th Anniversary of Government Publications as Federal Document Depository Library was celebrated earlier this month.
 - UM President Tim Wolfe, U.S. Representative Blaine Luetkemeyer, U.S. Superintendent of Documents Mary Alice Baish, and many other dignitaries were on hand.

5. Space and Facilities improvements

- ESFAC (Ellis Space and Facilities Advisory Committee) was established in 2010 to advise LMT in changes and updates to space in Ellis Library. Here are just a few of the projects completed and underway during its second year:
 - Projects completed include: Removal of the old marble desk and repainting the heat registers in CPRR; Installing 26 tall wooden lockers on 2nd floor for users;
 - Projects underway or planned are: renovation of the First Floor Women's Restroom begun May, 2012, to be completed September, 2012; and a project to improve signage in Ellis is underway
- Major renovations to first floor of Health Sciences Library are also underway
 - The creation of new computerized testing facility is due for completion in fall.
 - The staff lounge was relocated and renovated, and new moveable compact shelving was installed to retain the print collections.
- Changes in the Vet Med Library are also underway, with more space for public computers and revamped staff offices to be completed over the summer.

4. Enhanced Electronic Access

- The UM Libraries continue to grow our electronic collections with the addition last summer of the collection Nineteenth Century Periodicals and a current trial of Nineteenth Century Collections online, both large collections of primary source materials. Tools like these enable our campus scholars to be at the forefront of scholarship, and they support efforts such as this summer's National Endowment for the Humanities Seminar, "Jane Austen and Her Contemporaries", directed by our English professor Devoney Looser, attracting specially selected scholars from all over the world to MU. The MOspace digital archive continues to grow with about 2,000 new titles added this year for a total of almost 13,000 works of MU scholarship currently online. Next year, we expect to have growth in items incorporating datasets from faculty research.
- MOspace, our digital archive of MU scholarship, continues to grow;;
 - after four full years of existence, MOspace has reached 13,000 items
 - Next year, plans include acquiring online data-sets from MU researchers

3. Membership in the Hathi Trust

- The Hathi Trust is the major text digitization project started by the libraries participating in the Google Books scanning project. Membership in the Trust allows MU Libraries to upload our own unique content as well as enabling our users to have access to the collections in the Trust. One example of our unique content is the Savitar. Currently, a few Savitar volumes are already in the Trust, scanned from volumes at the University of Michigan (which has 1894-1923 with some volumes missing) and the New York Public Library (which has the 1915 issue). Adding our scanned Savitars will make the whole run accessible. All of our unique digitized content will be showcased along with that of research libraries such as Michigan, Indiana, Harvard and others.

2. Integration of UM/LSO staffing and functions

- As part of this reorganization, three new functional units have come under MU Libraries administration. The units are Database Procurement, Programming, and Digitization, which combine to form Library Systems Operations, following the model of the UM Library Depositories. The new Digitization Unit was formed under supervision of the Head of Cataloging, and they are engaged in many projects. One current project is the digitization of pre-1920 theses and dissertations. This project will make accessible in MOspace items like a thesis entitled *Colored Working Mothers in Columbia*, written in 1918; *The Origins of the Liberal Republican Movement in Missouri*, written in 1912, and many other early examples of MU scholarship. Hardy Pottinger and Phil Redmon are part of the Programming Unit that now reports to Ernest Shaw of MU Libraries Technology Services. Also as part of the integration, Terry Austin and Abbie Brown from Database Procurement have been reclassified into librarian titles: Librarian-4 for Terry and Librarian-2 for Abbie. We congratulate them on their move into the librarian ranks.

And the number one accomplishment of academic year, 2012:

1. Response to the Fire in Ellis Library

- The entire campus turned out to help with the recovery efforts after the arson attack on Saturday, September 10, 2011.
 - I have never been so proud of our staff as I was when we were able to re-open Ellis library within three days of the fire and flooding. **Many** of our users remarked to me about it, with heartfelt appreciation.
 - Staff from Access Services, Ellis Reference Dept., Government Publications, Technical Services, Preservation, the branch libraries, and more came to our aid.
 - We all know what particular difficulties the Circulation-Reserve-ILL units underwent for the duration of the fall semester.
- Times like these test all of us, and every MU Libraries staff member should take special pride in our response to the fire.
 - Whether it is fighting fires, or budget cuts, or hiring freezes, or the many continuing pressures and demands of our jobs every day, we know that we can be successful when we work together.
 - My thanks to all of you for all you do in your jobs every day.