

MU Libraries – Top Ten List

May 20, 2013

10. New Collections and Acquisitions

- Last year, MU Libraries received a bequest of the Lanford Wilson Collection and the opening of the collection for research was officially announced in April at the campus symposium, **Angels in Performance**, which featured an interview with award-winning playwright, Tony Kushner. The opening of the collection included an exhibit, organized by the SCARAB division.
- The rare books collection benefited from a bequest from the estate of Helen Jenkins that included early editions of William Faulkner and Rudyard Kipling as well as a large collection of books with fore-edge paintings.
- Rare Books and Special Collections department was also able to purchase two early-printed books from the 15th century and a rare manuscript written in 1624.

9. Facilities upgrades and renewal

- In Ellis Library, two major projects were completed:
 - Newly renovated women's restroom on the main floor of Ellis Library, and refurbished restrooms on the ground floor of Ellis.
 - Completion of expansion of Information Commons area on main floor of Ellis Library for use by students in spring semester.
- And in the Branch Libraries:
 - Full-time permanent staffing was resumed in the Math Library, thanks to Access Services and John Meyer.
 - The Engineering Library saw the addition of five new enclosed study rooms to meet the needs of students.
 - The Veterinary Medical Library completed long-overdue renovations, after more than thirty-five years with the original carpeting and décor.
 - The Health Sciences Library has finally seen long-planned renovations finally underway on the first floor, with moveable compact shelving in place and a new technology commons scheduled for the fall.

8. Staffing and Personnel changes

- Newly added positions:
 - Assistant Head of Access Services, **Sara Bryant** joined us in August.
 - Distinguished Librarian Curator of Medical and Veterinary Historical Collections, **Trenton Boyd** was named to this new position also in August.
- Soon to be added positions:

- E-Learning Library Liaison, new ITF funding approved in March, 2013, and the search is now underway (memo from Deb Ward, 5/17/13)
- Digital Curator-Journalism, our offer to the preferred candidate has been accepted and he will join us in August, 2013 (barring any complications from the required criminal background check)
- RAIS Division Head, our offer to the preferred candidate has been accepted and she will join us in August, 2013

7. Events

We had our usual complement of lectures, exhibits, performances, and programs over the course of the year. Among them were:

- Partnership with the Mizzou Advantage Initiative for an International conference “Cultural Bricolage: Artist Books of Cuba’s Ediciones Vigia.” The SCARAB division organized an exhibit “The Magical World of Ediciones Vigia”.
- The Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Replica presentation and ribbon cutting was a highlight of campus celebrations surrounding Martin Luther King, Jr.’s birthday and Black History Month.
- The SCARAB division participated in the 9th annual MU Life Sciences Symposium by organizing the exhibit “Kindred Kingdoms: Family in Flora, Fauna and Fiction”.
- Rajmohan Gandhi, grandson of “The Mahatma,” was the featured speaker at the Library Society Dinner last month, and he gave a public interview earlier in the day as part of his visit, sponsored by the Libraries.

6. User Services

- New and Enhanced Services have been made available:
 - We rolled out a new MERLIN Catalog interface, and MU librarians can take a large part of the credit for it.
 - The Information Commons now offers 5 self-service scanners: 2 KIC scanners and 3 flatbed scanners.
 - HSL Reference has introduced “co-browsing” – the technique of users sharing their screen images with library staff to help with finding materials online. One patron stated that “this may have been the most helpful customer service experience in my life.” HSL also credits co-browsing with increasing their chat reference more than five-fold.
 - Enhanced online instruction is now provided by the Journalism Library, HSL, Engineering Library and Ellis Reference.
- We now have Lib-QUAL [*pronounced: LYBE-Qual*] assessment data and as well as user comments to help in enhancing services
- The SCARAB Division conducted 174 classes with 1,815 participants – representing a sixty percent increase over the past two years.

5. Technical Services

- The Cataloging Department successfully implemented the new standard for cataloging rules, known as RDA, in the culmination of a year-long training effort.
- The Acquisitions Department introduced Demand-Driven Acquisitions (DDA) for selected approval-profiled subject areas, resulting in significant cost savings.
- **Felicity Dykas** successfully applied for MU Libraries to be part of the national BIBCO project, the next logical step after the Libraries' NACO certification. Now bibliographic records we submit will have the highest level of certification through the Program for Cooperative Cataloging (PCC). BIBCO participation is a mark of quality and distinction for the few libraries that are designated.
- Missouri S&T library has now migrated digital records of their Scholars Mine repository into MOspace. The UM Libraries now have almost 34,000 total items online via MOspace.

4. Staff accomplishments

We all know we have multi-talented individuals working with us in the MU Libraries, I wanted to call on those persons who have had significant accomplishments or recognitions in the past year. I have the names of many, but it is by no means an exhaustive list: **Barb Jones** gave two invited presentations outside of our NNLM region this year. **Dorothy Carner** gave an invited presentation in Helsinki, Finland in August. **Trenton Boyd** received an achievement award at MLA this month, and **June DeWeese** was given special recognition at a GWLA event in Austin, TX also this month. **Darrell Schmick** received an award at Mid-Continent MLA, and **Sheena Waggoner** will receive later today recognition from Chancellor Deaton for her service on the Staff Advisory Council.

I know that there are many others who have received similar recognitions for their achievements this year. I ask all here today who have been recognized for service over the past year to rise and join me in acknowledging your distinctive contributions.

3. Thank You to Staff for Extra Efforts During Severe Weather

With the hot weather we been having lately, it may be hard to remember that February brought not just one, but two snow emergencies on campus. I want to give special thanks to the staff who gave extra measures of service during this time, under very difficult circumstances. They include:

- **Diane Johnson** stayed to work in HSL until 4:30 on Thursday afternoon, Feb. 21, after the campus was declared closed, so that students taking their exams could finish.
- **Shelley McDavid** staffed HSL on that Saturday from noon until 5:00 PM, even though Ellis Library was officially the only branch to be open after the first major storm.
- **Yasuyo Knoll** braved snow-covered country roads to be here on Sunday to open HSL at noon. With the help of a circulation student, she kept HSL open until normal closing at 1:00 am!
- **Kate Anderson** arranged for student coverage for the Veterinary Medical Library on Sunday from noon to 8:00 PM, which is the normal Sunday schedule for Vet Med.
- **Pat Jones, Julie Rogers, and Dana Houston** of Ellis Security were essential to keeping doors open and maintaining security with short-staffing. **Duane Bittle** and **Russell Matthews** also helped in managing snow removal at library entries. Our day porter, **William Martin**, also maintained restrooms and snow removal.
- **Ernest Shaw** and LTS staff made sure that our servers and network access was maintained, especially proxy servers for remote users.
- **Shannon Cary** had to coordinate the many public announcements and website notices of changes in Ellis and branch library hours.
- And **Mark Ellis**, who walked into campus from his home to put signs on Ellis Library doors informing users of our closures on Friday, Feb. 22.

I may have missed some people, so I would like to ask all those whose names I called, and anyone who did put in extra hours during our back-to-back snow emergencies to stand so we can thank you.

2. Fire Trial Update and Thanks

As most of you are likely aware the individual suspected of starting the fires in Ellis Library in September, 2011 was convicted in Federal Court last month. I want to thank everyone who was called upon to help gather information and to answer questions in support the case. I especially want to thank those who were called to be present at the trial to represent the MU Libraries: **Pat Jones, Ann Riley, and Julie Rogers**. One person in particular was singled out during the trial to bear witness in front of the jury and the full court. **Julie Rogers** was not only a stalwart during the aftermath of the fire, but also as the one person who testified the most on our behalf at the trial. I believe it was Julie who helped the most to render the final verdict of guilty. Please help me thank Julie for her service.

1. RAIS Division Head Search and Thanks to Deb Ward

I have one more person to thank before I turn over the podium. Earlier I mentioned that in a few months we will have a new RAIS Division Head reporting to work in Ellis Library. For more than three years, this position has been listed as a vacancy on our personnel rolls. But the position has, of course, not been vacant. Instead we have had an interim Associate Director of Libraries carrying out the responsibilities of the position. This is not an enviable situation for anyone to undertake. Taking on new responsibilities, at a high administrative level, while at the same time not fully relinquishing existing responsibilities, is difficult to say the least. However, we have been lucky enough to have someone in this interim position who has had the energy, the patience, the perseverance and the professionalism, not only to maintain the work of the RAIS Division but to lead it. I am, of course, referring to **Deb Ward**.

Knowing Deb, I expect that she will protest that she could not have succeeded in the interim position without the support of **Diane Johnson** and **Rich Rexroat**, who undertook additional duties in HSL. She will also rightly credit the department heads within the RAIS Division and no doubt others for their support during this extended period of time. I want to thank all of them for the dedication and support they have given over the past several years, but I must especially thank Deb for enduring the longest single period of interim appointment I am aware of in the MU Libraries. That is a celebration of service, indeed.