

Top Ten List -- May, 2014

10. Fundraising Efforts

- MU Libraries are gearing up for new fundraising campaign, in conjunction with the campus campaign. The last comprehensive fundraising effort at MU was the For All We Call Mizzou campaign, which ended in 2008 after raising over One Billion Dollars for the University. The new campus campaign will likely be announced in 2015, and the goal will surely be well over one billion. The library goal is obviously more modest – perhaps as much as twelve million. We will be deciding on the goal in the coming year.
- One measure of how fundraising campaigns work is the fact that, for the first time, the total value of all MU Libraries endowment funds reached \$10 million in January, 2014. Endowed funds are part of the University's investment pool, and they earn us extra money every year to supplement the General Revenue Allocations that come to us annually on July 1.

9. Centennial Planning – Ruth Feldkamp

- A planning committee, co-chaired by Marie Concannon (Government Documents) and Chris Montgomery (part-time library grant writer), initiated planning for the 100th anniversary of the opening of the building now known as Ellis Library. Ellis was the first building built on campus to house the library collection of the University. It opened to the public in the fall of 1915, and it was formally dedicated in January, 1916.
- A series of events will celebrate all of the MU Libraries during academic year 2015-2016, and there will be buttons, banners, t-shirts and more to help publicize the events. A commemorative publication will also be printed, authored by retired journalism faculty member and long-time friend of the libraries, Steve Weinberg.

- We hope that this year-long party will result in our receiving lots of cash gifts from friends, alumni, faculty, students, and all who value the University Libraries.

8. Events and Exhibits

- The “Divided Loyalties” exhibit and accompanying programs were presented throughout the fall semester, detailing how the issue of slavery split Missouri’s population. Events included a series of lectures, a panel discussion, documentary and film showings, a “kids day” for community members, and two bus tours of key Civil War sites in Columbia.
- A “Superhero Science” exhibit, featuring comic books from the Special Collections department was on display in Ellis Library in March as part of the Life Sciences Symposium. In conjunction with the exhibit, Dr. Tim Evans gave a talk entitled “Everything is Toxic: Do We Need Superheroes or Historical and Scientific Literacy to Survive in a Toxic World?”
- The Health Sciences Library continues an exhibit curated by Trenton Boyd (Distinguished Library Curator) on Dr. John Sappington of Arrow Rock, Missouri. Sappington was a pioneer physician, and the first person in the United States to advocate the use of quinine to treat malarial fevers. Over a million of his “Sappington Anti-Fever” pills (containing quinine) saved countless lives of settlers living in the Mississippi Valley region and of travelers headed westward on the Santa Fe Trail.
- As part of our continuing Library Lecture Series, Dr. Fred Hawthorne gave a talk on Boron Neutron Capture Therapy (BNCT) for cancer, and the remarkable progress made here at MU.
- Also as part of the lecture series, Dr. Judith Mabary provided an introduction to the genre of Czech Melodrama, popular during the nineteenth century. After the lecture, two works of this genre were performed by Dr. Janice Wenger from the School of Music on piano, with Dr. Cheryl Black from the Department of Theatre as the reciter.

- Two of the seven volumes of the heritage edition of the St. John's Bible, the first hand-lettered and illuminated bible produced in folio size for five-hundred years, have been on display in the Ellis Library Colonnade since October. During the month of April, a travelling exhibit of framed, full-size prints from all seven volumes of the heritage edition was also on display.

7. Facilities upgrades and renewal

- For the third year in a row, MU Libraries received Student Fees Capital Improvements Committee (SFCIC) funds. This year, the funds will be used to create more study spaces for students on the 4th Floor of Ellis. Work will commence on the project in June. Previously, the SFCIC had provided funds for a KIC scanner for public use, and for additional video cameras for security in Ellis Library following the fire in 2011.
- The renovation of the first floor of Health Sciences Library was completed and reopened in September. Funded by the School of Medicine, the space now hosts compact shelving, a new learning commons that doubles as a testing center, a new conference room, an upgraded classroom, and a new staff lounge.
- Some of the oldest carpeting in Ellis Library was replaced in the East Reference offices. The last remaining original carpet tiles can be seen in the West Reference area for a few more months. (Reference staff members note that in the process of preparing for carpeting, other ancient relics were uncovered, which you may see if you ask nicely.)
- Renew Mizzou will (eventually) mean some upgrades to Ellis Library facilities, but not until a year from now when our temporary guests from Jesse Hall move back to their former office spaces. Perhaps there will be more to report at next year's Celebration of Service.

6. Services to Users

- Based on LibQUAL survey comments from users, both Health Sciences Library and Veterinary Medical Library began 1) offering free document delivery to primary clients, 2) sending advance book renewal reminders to patrons, and 3) relaxed their food and drink policies.
- A new mobile Web Site was introduced to assist users in finding library information on their smart phones and handheld devices.
- Progress continued on the new library web design.
- Demand Driven Acquisitions (DDA) was introduced as a means of controlling costs for monograph acquisitions. The effort succeeded in reducing the outlay of acquisitions funds for fiscal year 2014, but it also enabled users to request items for immediate purchase and to have those items available directly, often in digital form.
- Kimberly Moeller and Nancy Messina (both from Ellis Reference) compiled an online guide to accompany the most recent list of books recommended by MU faculty members. This list has been compiled occasionally by the Office of University Affairs and is distributed as a poster to Missouri high schools and to other libraries in the state. This is the first time that an online version of the list has been created, complete with links to open WorldCat records, and directions on how to find the books in a local library or to download them if they're in the public domain.

5. Digital Services Initiatives

- As part of a major reorganization of the ACTS Division in Ellis Library, a new Digital Services Unit was formed to focus on the MOspace institutional repository and digitization projects. MOspace continues to grow in stature, and its ranking has consistently improved in the annual Webometrics survey, which currently lists MOspace at 122 of more than 1,500 international repositories ranked by the service.
- MU Libraries registered the GWLA consortium's first e-book interlibrary loan transaction using the new digital technology "Occam's Reader." The book request was initiated in April by Southern Methodist University in Dallas, TX.
- Anselm Huelsbergen (University Archives) represents the MU Libraries as an archival consultant for the University of Missouri's partnership with the University of the Western Cape and the Robben Island Museum to help preserve and make digitally available the holdings of the Mayibuye Archives at the UWC. The archives contain papers and artifacts from several famous prisoners once held at Robben Island, including Nelson Mandela and Desmond Tutu.
- Gary Cox (University Archives) attended a meeting of the Virtual Archives for Land Grant History, a collaboration of librarians and archivists, invited by the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU), to create a repository that will facilitate the identification, discovery, digital preservation, dissemination, digitization and interpretation of historical resources relating to land-grant universities.

4. Staffing and Personnel changes

After such a long time with a partial hiring freeze in place, we were finally able to fill some much-needed vacancies:

- **Seven new librarian positions were filled**, including (in chronological order): Edward McCain, Digital Curator for Journalism (July 29); Jeannette Pierce, Division Head for Research and Information Services (August 5); Kim Moeller, Ashley Nelson and Nancy Messina, Reference Librarians (August 12 for Kim and Ashley, and October 1 for Nancy); Navadeep Khanal, E-Learning Librarian in RAIS Division (November 14); Corrie Hutchinson, Collection Development Librarian (February 17)
- **Eleven new classified and support staff were hired**, including: Mandi Davis, Administrative Assistant, Health Sciences Library (June 10); Chris Stayton, Library Information Assistant, Ellis Access Services (August 28); Wendy Batson, Library Information Specialist-2, Engineering Library (September 12); Shengxin Sun (pronounced: Shun-Shin Soon), Library Information Assistant, Journalism Library (September 23); Tammie Busch, Library Information Specialist-2, Health Sciences Library (September 30); Marcia (pronounced: Mar-SEE-ah) Strong, Security Officer, Ellis Library (October 9); William Martin, Delivery Attendant, Ellis Library Receiving Room (October 14); Cori Mayfield, half-time Library Information Specialist-1, Ellis Circulation/Reserve (January 2); Burt Fields and Jillian Bueno, part-time Library Information Assistants, UMLD (February 10 and 17); Kat Stone, Library Information Assistant, Ellis Access Services (May 19).

3. Staff Accomplishments

- **Marie Concannon** (Government Documents) was awarded the “Bernadine Abbott Hoduski Founders Award,” by ALA’s GODORT Section, recognizing a librarian who has made significant contributions to the field of state, international, local or federal documents. Marie was also elected to chair the Depository Library Council of the U.S. Government Printing Office.
- **Caryn Scoville** (Health Sciences Library) received the Child Health Resident Appreciation award.
- **Goodie Bhullar** (Ellis Reference) received a Writing Intensive “Teaching Excellence Award” in recognition of her contributions to MU writing intensive classes and being an excellent teacher.
- **Edward McCain** (Archives) was awarded a \$50,000 Mizzou Advantage grant to organize a conference, “Dodging the Memory Hole,” to be held in November, 2014, featuring Clifford Lynch as speaker.
- **Darell Schmick** (Health Sciences Library) participated in the Global Scholar delegation to China, and **Alla Barabtarlo** (Special Collections) has been selected for the delegation leaving for Turkey next month.
- **Sheena Waggoner** (Administration) was inducted into PSI CHI, the International Honor Society in Psychology, for her recognition of outstanding scholastic achievement and excellence
- **Sandy Schiefer** (Government Documents), Rachel Brekhus (Ellis Reference), Judy Maseles (Engineering Library), and Ann Riley (ACTS) all presented papers at the Missouri Library Association meeting in October.
- **June DeWeese** (Access Services) received the Outstanding Contribution Award from the MU Department of Residential Life for her contributions to campus learning communities at the Learning Community Partners reception earlier this month. And most recently, she has been awarded the title of Librarian Emerita by Chancellor Loftin.
- **Ann Riley** was elected to office of President-elect of the Association of College and Research Libraries, the largest division of the American Library Association. She will serve as President beginning in July, 2015.

2. and 1. M.O.L.D.

That brings us to the final entry for the Top Ten List. Yes, I know, this is a “Top Ten” and we have only mentioned eight items up to now. But please bear with me and you will understand why this last item occupies two places in the Top Ten.

The “last item,” of course, is the event which has consumed us since this past fall. It was also the second major disaster to visit the MU Libraries in a very short space of time. It is, of course, the **Most Odious Library Disaster** – or **M.O.L.D.**

Two years ago, item number one of the Top Ten List for the Celebration of Service (in May of 2012) was the library response to the Ellis Arson Attack, which occurred on September 10, 2011. I was immensely proud of the way our library staff and campus units responded to the awful damage suffered from the fire, smoke and flooding that happened that day. I am equally proud of the way we responded to the news of the outbreak of M.O.L.D.

As devastating as the problem was during the initial weeks following the discovery, the ensuing months of assessing the damage, and finally crafting a strategy to deal with the disaster, confirmed the wisdom of our long-term investment in collaborations with MERLIN, MOBIUS, GWLA and other library resource-sharing consortia, as well as our memberships in CRL, Hathi Trust, Western Storage Trust and other organizations. These collaborations come at a price, it is true. But the price is truly an investment, not a cost.

We are not the first, nor will we be the last major research library to suffer a catastrophic loss, but we can truthfully say that no faculty member, student or independent researcher will lack for access to any of the M.O.L.D.-infested materials. That is because of our trusted partners who came to our aid when needed. That spirit of collaboration and cooperation, from library staff members that we may never meet or even come to know, is also something to celebrate today. Thank you for all you do, both for the MU Libraries and for the greater network of libraries in Missouri and beyond.