

**Missouri State**<sup>™</sup>  
U N I V E R S I T Y



University Libraries  
Annual Report 2013-14  
Summer 2014



Duane G. Meyer Library  
901 South National Avenue  
Springfield, MO 65897-0001

## Visit Us on Social Media

Keep up to date with what's happening around the libraries. We post events, memes, and trivia on Facebook and Twitter. Be sure to subscribe to YouTube Channel for tutorials, oral histories, and other videos.



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# Message from the Dean

The mission of the Missouri State University Libraries is to provide information resources, services, and spaces that advance the University's purpose to develop educated persons. Regarding the library as space, the number of users in Duane G. Meyer Library more than doubled between 2002 (338,266) and 2014 (697,095). We just completed a long-range space plan for Meyer Library that will continue to make it a place conducive to research and study for students and faculty. Now we are working to fund and implement the plan. One small first step in this multi-year process has been the addition of diner booths, which have proven to be very popular with MSU students.



Electronic information resources continue to be popular, too. Usage increased 8% over the previous year. We are expanding our digital oral history efforts as well, including a recent grant from the National Park Service to interview African Americans who lived in Greene County during the prime decades of Route 66. We also are working with the University of Missouri-Columbia and Washington University in St. Louis to improve access to federal and state documents. This collaborative project is funded by a grant from Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

Our information services are expanding and evolving quickly. Meyer Library now has six collaboration stations, which enable small groups to bring their own laptops and tablets to the library, plug them in, engage in small-group work, and show and share their work on a large monitor. Speaking of large monitors, we recently added a large video display near the main entrance of Meyer, containing information about events, programs, and services available through the Graduate College, the Office of the Provost, and the Libraries. We recently added three self-service, simple, and free scanning stations, as well as two charging stations—for users who bring their own devices to the library (just about everyone these days). Our mobile-optimized website, text-messaging reference service, Facebook page, Twitter account, and YouTube channel all continue to grow in popularity and use.

Please enjoy this annual report, which highlights just a few of the many exciting things happening at the University Libraries. I invite you to visit the MSU Libraries and use the collections, services, and spaces. When you do, please drop by my office to say hello.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Thomas A. Peters". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid and legible.

Tom Peters  
Dean of Library Services

# Meyer Library Voted Best Place to Study



Meyer Library was voted Best Campus Study Spot in *The Standard's* (the campus newspaper) 2013 Best of MSU survey. Students voted online for their favorite things in over 75 categories. Voting was done via fill-in-the blank as a way to capture what is actually valued and trending among the students. Winners were announced in the final fall issue of *The Standard*. This is Meyer Library's fourth win in a row in this category. Winners of the Best of MSU categories receive the use of the Best of MSU logo (seen here) and a certificate for display.

## Open 24 Hours

In response to a request by the Student Government Association, the University Libraries keeps Meyer Library open for 24 hours per day during finals week. Since 2013 we have extended our hours for finals week in order to meet the needs of students.



*For many students, the library is the best place on campus to study*

In addition to providing a great, reliable place to study during finals week, the libraries also holds fun, relaxing activities. To help alleviate student stress, faculty at Meyer Library held activities such as late night coffee breaks, free snacks, massage chairs, and therapy pets -- a big hit among students. Outreach for these activities was done through social media and had an average of 135 responses on Facebook and reached 1,322 people on Twitter. Beginning in December 2014, the 24 Hours of finals week will expand to six consecutive nights.

# Jumbotron in Lobby



*The "Jumbotron" can be found in the front lobby of Meyer Library*

Nicknamed the Jumbotron by staff, the large video display at the front entrance of Meyer Library is a collaborative project with the Provost, the Graduate College, and the Libraries. The primary purpose of the display is to inform library patrons of programs and services provided by the partners and to make patrons aware of campus energy usage. Displayed content includes the current day's events in the library, energy dashboard, information on graduate school programs, information on services and programs in the library, content from the library digital collection, news events, social media streams, and, everyone's favorite: the current outdoor temperature.

# Collaboration Stations



*One of the six collaboration stations at Meyer Library*

Many students will find new opportunities to do group work at the library. Earlier in February of 2013, a collaboration station was installed on the first level of Meyer Library. The station can aid students in group collaboration by providing multiple ports for various portable computers.

Through the ports, students can display information from their devices onto a large monitor. Five more of these stations have been implemented at the start of the 2014 fall semester. Devices that are supported include

- Laptops
- Android tablets and phones
- Apple products

Funding for the stations was provided by the Student Computer Usage Fee (SCUF) and the Provost.

# Scanning Stations



*One of three scanning stations located in Meyer Library*

In fall of 2013, Meyer Library began implementing free, self-service, simple scanning stations. The stations allow students to scan parts of books or documents and save them onto a flash drive or their Google Drive. The process is user-friendly and employs a touch screen that displays the different options available and instructs the user on how to make the scan. Funding for the stations was provided by the Provost and a SCUF grant. Currently, three scanning stations are located on the lower, first, and second levels.

# A PLACE TO RELAX...



## A Puzzling Phenomenon

Students are spending lots of time in the library and they're not only reading, writing, studying, and working on computers. Between the Reference desk and Government documents lies a table with two jigsaw puzzles that students solve. The phenomenon began during the fall 2013 semester when Ann Fuhrman, librarian for Reference and Government Information, used a puzzle box for the Global Perspectives display. At the last minute, she decided to let students solve the puzzle for a prize. The reception to the contest was overwhelming and expanded to two puzzles at a time without prizes. "They were never interested in the prize," says Fuhrman. "They told us they liked

having a break. The puzzles offer an activity that is both tactile and relaxing for students."

Many of the puzzles are either donated or on loan. Puzzles that have been donated are marked as to when they were finished so that they can be cycled appropriately. Last academic year saw the completion of 51 puzzles: 27 in fall 2013 and 24 in Spring 2014. A variety of students both old and young, international and domestic, friends and couples take time to solve them. According to Fuhrman, when she asked a student how he felt about the puzzles, he said "It felt welcoming."

*A puzzle in the process of being completed*

*"It felt  
welcoming"*



# David Harrison Day

On April 2, 2014, Missouri State University Libraries in collaboration with Springfield-Greene County Library celebrated David Harrison Day, adopted by the Springfield City Council to honor his life and work. David Harrison is a renowned children's author, poet, and literacy advocate who helped bring libraries to Springfield elementary schools. He has written 89 books and his works have been featured in 115 anthologies. A special event was held at Meyer Library; approximately 100 people attended and enjoyed an exhibit featuring David Harrison's works, courtesy of Special Collections. Part of the exhibit featured Harrison's storybook cards from when he worked at Hallmark. Missouri State University Libraries was excited to honor



*Greenwood students gathered at Haseltine Library to celebrate David Harrison Day*

Springfield's foremost author. Many were delighted as Harrison regaled the audience with his masterful stories. There was also a surprise performance from the Resident Artist Ensemble.



## Rare Wine, Rare Books

On July 25th, 2014, Special Collections and Archives hosted its Rare Wine, Rare Books wine-tasting dinner. The event focused on the theme of French poetry, specifically that of Arthur Rimbaud. This was the sixth RWRB event hosted by the University Libraries and this event had a record attendance of over 50 attendees. The event served a variety of wines sponsored by donors. These wines included:

- Blanquette de Limoux Brut
- Dolcetto di Dogliani
- Laport, Le Bouquet

Rare Wines Rare Books is an annual event held by the University Libraries William Daggett Society in support of the Rare Books Endowment founded by Derek and Jennifer Fraley.

*A bottle of 2012 Laporte, Le Bouquet: a Cabernet Franc*

# REVAMPING USER SPACE

Patrons can expect some big changes to Missouri State University library facilities. In the upcoming months, Meyer Library will be revamping user space to match changing needs and expectations. Meyer Library was first built in 1980, with a major addition in 2002. Since the addition, foot traffic has nearly doubled with 697,095 visitors annually in 2014, compared to 338,266 in 2002.

The goal is to create a space that focuses less on circulating materials and more on user space. More compact shelving will be used for books and other print materials, freeing up space that will be more conducive to studying and group work. Free space will also be used to house other University services, enhancing the library as a multi-use building. These offices include

- Missouri State University Testing Center
- Disability Resource Center
- TRiO

In addition, the library's open access computer lab, the largest on campus, will be moved from the second level to the first. Some of these space changes have begun with a goal to complete the entire project in 3-4 years as funding allows.

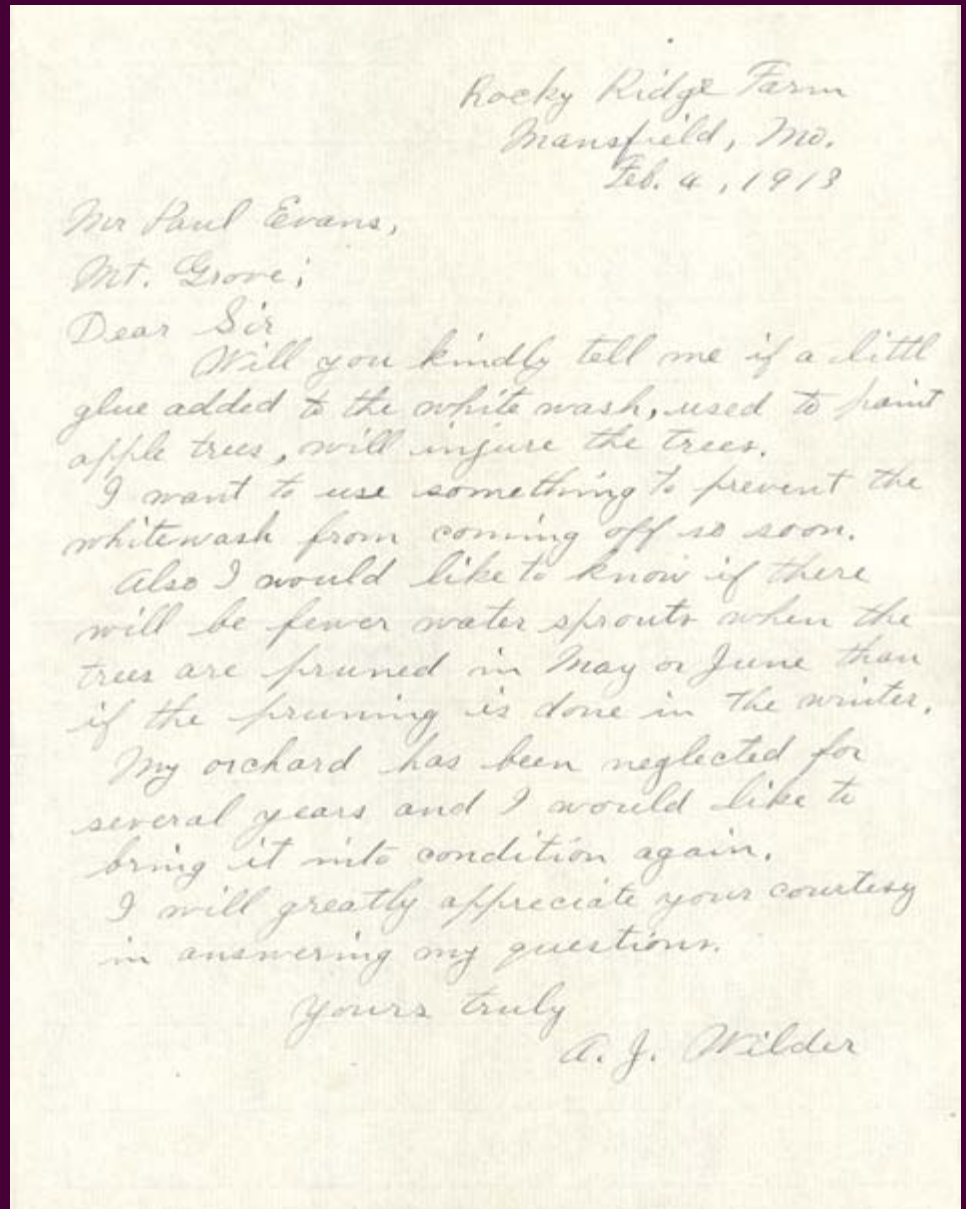
*Students can expect many more changes to the user space at Meyer Library*





# Throwback: Letters from Laura Ingalls Wilder's Husband to Paul Evans

Laura Ingalls Wilder and her husband, Almanzo (she referred to him affectionately as Manly), were long-time residents of the Ozarks. The young couple moved to the Mansfield area in 1894. It would be decades before Laura began writing the Little House books. They were a farm couple, focusing on poultry, dairy cattle, and fruit trees. This summer Pam Mayer, a library staff member in the Paul Evans Library at the MSU Fruit Experiment Station in Mountain Grove, discovered a handwritten letter dated Feb. 4, 1913 from Almanzo to Paul Evans, the director of the Fruit Experiment Station. Almanzo asked if glue could be added to the whitewash applied to apple trees without injuring them—to prevent the whitewash from washing off the trees too quickly. Evans replied promptly within two days, suggesting, “I think if you will add a little crude oil and emulsify it with your whitewash you will get better results.” This correspondence from a century ago has been added to the archives of the MSU Libraries.



A.J. Wilder's Letter to Paul Evans asking for advice in caring for his orchard



## MSU Libraries Partner with Community to Collect Route 66 Stories

The MSU Libraries has received a grant from the National Park Service to conduct, record, transcribe, disseminate, and archive a series of over 20 oral histories containing memories of Greene County residents about historic Route 66. The project will focus on African American experiences. Partners in this effort include the City of Springfield, the History Museum on the Square, State Historical Society of Missouri, and the Route 66 Association of Missouri. This project will complement other ongoing oral history projects of the MSU Libraries, including Ozarks Voices (interviews with native Ozarkers and long-time residents) and the OLGA Oral History Project, part of the Ozarks Lesbian and Gay Archives. The Route 66 oral history project will produce audio and video recordings. The videos will be available on the YouTube Channel of the MSU Libraries.

## SHSMO and MSU Libraries Team Up for Research Center

The State Historical Society of Missouri (SHSMO) and the MSU Libraries are partnering to establish a new Research Center – Springfield. Historians, researchers, and genealogists will be able to access SHSMO's vast manuscript, book, and newspaper collections, no matter where the materials are housed. Together with SHSMO's Research Center-Rolla, the Springfield location (in Meyer Library) will augment the resources available for historical research of the southwest region of the state and encourage historical study of the area. Founded in 1898 by the Missouri Press Association, SHSMO is the premier center for the study of Missouri state and local history.

# STAFF NOTES

## Accomplishments

### Librarian Receives NAACP Springfield Chapter Award



Congratulations to librarian **Grace Jackson-Brown** on being given the Roy Wilkins Educational Partnership Award by the NAACP Springfield Chapter at their

Annual Freedom Fund Banquet. She received the award in recognition of her service as chairperson of the Springfield African American Read-In for the last 5 years. The Springfield African American Read-In Committee (AARIC) is a partnership of the Missouri State University Libraries, MSU, Drury University, Springfield Public Schools, the Springfield-Greene County Library, and the NAACP Springfield Chapter. During February 2014, the AARIC touched more than 400 persons (200 books received and 200 attendees).

### Librarian Helps Start Local Men's Chorus



MSU Libraries staff member **Lisa McEowen** received significant mention in the Sept. 2013 issue of *PFLAG Pulse* in an article about the formation of the Men's Chorus

of the Ozarks. The article covers the story of McEowen's role in creating the chorus. Inspired by the Kansas City Heartland Men's Chorus, McEowen and her friend Jeff Walker, along with their friend Chris Newsom, set out to start a gay men's chorus here in the Ozarks. McEowen used her contacts at the University to help with the process and gain members. Currently, the chorus sports 30-40 members. They meet every Monday at 7 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 2434 E. Battlefield. All men are encouraged to join.

### Librarian Co-Authors Book on Multicultural Children's Literature

**Cherri Jones** and J.B. Petty have co-authored a book which was recently published. Jones and Petty have participated in several book



talks since 2000, focusing on their love for multicultural literature. Over the years, Jones and Petty noticed that many libraries possessed few to no books with multiethnic characters. Titled *Multiethnic Books for the Middle School Curriculum*, the book provides detailed annotations complete with summaries, evaluations and suggested age levels. Jones states that the purpose of the book is to "help librarians infuse their collections with multicultural books so that every child sees herself reflected in literature."

### Staff Member Completes Ambassadors Program

**Shannon Mawhiney** successfully completed the Missouri State University Staff Ambassadors program (USA). USA is a staff development program offered by



the University. Its goals are to provide staff opportunities to learn about the divisions and offices on campus and to foster communication across departments and divisions. Ambassadors meet once a month and visit different offices and campuses in order to develop an understanding of the University. At least one staff member from each University division is chosen each year. Other ambassadors from the library staff include Anne Baker, Ann Fuhrman, Emily Furtak, Lisa McEowen, and Tracie Gieselmann-Holthaus.

## Newcomer: Jessica Bennett

In July, Missouri State University Libraries welcomed **Jessica Bennett** as the new e-learning and reference librarian. Bennett manages basic instruction and one-on-one reference in addition to creating online resources for distance learners. These resources include subject guides, tutorials, and Blackboard, a learning management system used at MSU. She was formerly a part-time reference librarian at Ozarks Technical Community College where she gained experience in general reference and helped students complete projects. Bennett earned her Bachelor of Arts at Missouri State University where she minored in Library Science. She went on to earn her Master of Arts in Information Sciences at the University of Missouri – Columbia.



## SPECIAL GIFT



In May 2013 a new entrance to the Special Collections & Archives Department was unveiled in honor of Karen L. Horny, Dean Emeritus. Karen served as MSU Dean of Library Services from 1995 to 2009. From 1999 to 2002 she led a \$29.6 million renovation and addition project, which doubled the size of the building and provided new space for the newly formed Special Collections and Archives initiative, computer labs, media collections, Reference and Government Information, and other areas. The expansion project also led to the creation of the wonderful Jane A. Meyer Carillon Tower, a Springfield landmark. Her interest in rare books and special collections spans her entire professional career, and her service to and support of the MSU Libraries has benefitted the University community and the entire region.