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Between the Stacks, 12-2021

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Accessibility Committee

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Between the Stacks

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **OER (Open Educational Resources) Office Hours**
- Dec. 3, 2-4 PM - 226 - [Schedule an appointment](#)
- **DWR Writing Sprint** - Virtual Event - Dec. 9, 6-9 PM - [Learn more >](#)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

McWherter Hours & Upcoming Holidays

- **Exam Week: Dec. 3-9**
Monday-Thursday, 7:30 AM-1 AM
Friday, 7:30 AM-10 PM
Sat., 10 AM-10 PM & Sun., 12 PM-1 AM
- **Winter Break:**
December 24, 7:30am-6pm
December 23-January 2, CLOSED

CATCH ME UP ON 2021

Welcome to Our New Employees

- **Kelly Maust**, LA III in Lambuth, joined us on September 27, 2021
- **Davy Mariscano**, LA II in RIS, joined us on November 22, 2021
- **Marie Peeples**, LA II in Gov Pubs, joined us on November 22, 2021
- **Deja Bolton**, LA II in Gov Pubs, joined us on November 22, 2021

Employee Changes & Departures

- Congratulations to **Jim Cushing**, who is now an LA III in Special Collections.
- Best wishes to **Regina Cade**, who retired from the Libraries in October 2021.
- Best wishes to **Cindi Nichols**, who left the Libraries in October 2021.

ACCESSIBILITY

Universal Design

Educational institutions and libraries have often provided accessibility through [accommodations](#). Something about the design of the institution and its services are inaccessible, so the user with a disability requests for a support or service that will allow them equitable access. Accommodations are important to ensuring accessibility, but the accommodation process can place time, effort, and financial burdens on people with disabilities. It also forces the people in the library to be reactive to problems with accessibility as they come up.

If accommodations are reactive, the goal of Universal Design is to be proactive in dealing with accessibility. [Universal Design](#) is an approach to creating spaces, products, services, and anything else you can think of that tries to make sure what you are creating is accessible to as many people as possible from the beginning. Making things accessible from the beginning benefits more than just people with disabilities. [Curb cuts](#) in sidewalks are a classic example. Curb cuts help people in wheelchairs and other mobility assistance devices

ACCESSIBILITY (CONT.)

cross streets, but they can also help people using strollers, rolling carts, and anything else on wheels. While Universal Design was originally designed for environments and products, it can be adapted to other contexts. For example, [Universal Design for Learning \(UDL\)](#) is an approach to designing learning experiences, whether in the classroom or elsewhere, to make sure as many possible students as possible can learn successfully. Considering accessibility from the beginning can prevent the need to make accommodations down the line. While Universal Design is an important goal, the differences in needs between people with different disabilities [can make it difficult to truly implement](#).

Universal Design Resources

- “[Accessibility and Universal Design for Learning: Serving Students with Disabilities](#)” in [Instruction in Libraries and Information Centers: An Introduction](#)
- [7 Principles of Universal Design](#) from the [Center for Universal Design](#)
- [Universal Design for Learning Guidelines](#) from [CAST](#)
- [What is Universal Design?](#) from the [Centre for Excellence in Universal Design](#)

Upcoming Professional Development Opportunities

- **[Carrying Accessibility Forward, ALA Distance & Online Learning Section](#)**
Wed., Dec. 1 at 1 PM, Zoom, free
Katie Quirin Manwiller of West Chester University will share her knowledge of disability and accessibility, including universal design for learning (UDL) and how to implement it in online instruction.
- **[Best Practices to Make Accessibility Services More Visible Online and Web Content More Accessible, CHOICE](#)**
Wed., Dec. 8 at 1 PM, Zoom, free
K. T. L. Vaughan of Washington and Lee University will discuss library accessibility policies, providing information on accessibility on library webpages, and best practices for working with partners on accessibility. Jude Robinson and Hollie Kay from Springer Nature will discuss reading Voluntary Product Accessibility Templates (VPAT) and understanding the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG).

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