

University of Memphis

University of Memphis Digital Commons

Between the Stacks

University Libraries

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Between the Stacks, 08-2022

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Between the Stacks

UPCOMING EVENTS



- **Dissertation Writers Retreat, August 16, 9AM-1:30PM, Hybrid.** The first of four Dissertation Writers Retreats being held this academic year, “Base Camp: Getting Started” is a free event for UofM students who are currently past their comprehensive exam stage and are working on their dissertation prospectus or final document. The event will be offered virtually and in-person in McWherter Library (2nd Floor Commons). Questions? Contact Carl Hess. [For a full event schedule or to learn more>](#)
- **New Faculty Orientation, August 17, 8-9am, UC Ballroom.** We will be represented at a table.
- **Student Support Programs' Summer Bridge, August 18, 9-10am, 2nd Floor Commons.** Students will visit for an orientation on Libraries collections, services, and spaces.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

McWherter Hours

- **Summer Interim: August 6-21**
Monday-Friday, 8 AM-5 PM
Saturday & Sunday, CLOSED
- **Fall Term: Beginning August 22**
Monday-Thursday, 7:30 AM-Midnight
Friday, 7:30 AM-6 PM
Saturday, 10 AM-6 PM
Sunday, 1-10 PM

Employee Spotlights

- Farewell to **Ilesha Williams!** She will be leaving us Friday, August 5. Best of luck, Ilesha!
- Congratulations to **Dr. Irma Singarella**, our Health Sciences Librarian! Irma is collaborating on a research project with Dr. Sohye Lee from the Loewenberg School of Nursing titled “Perceived Racial Discrimination and Health Outcomes During COVID-19 Pandemic,” funded by the UofM’s Benjamin L. Hooks Institute for Social Change.

Did You Know?

- In honor of former University Libraries Associate Professor and Associate Dean Annelle Huggins, an **Annelle Huggins Scholarship** has been established by alumnus Daniel Cody, class of 1991. This scholarship will support graduate students working toward a degree or certificate in “School Library Information Specialist or Literacy.” Donations may be made at bit.ly/HugginsScholarship
- As of August 31, 2022, UofM students, faculty, and staff will no longer have access to the **New York Times** via the educational site license.

ACCESSIBILITY

Using Color with Accessibility in Mind

- Carl Hess

When creating a document or content for the web, how many times have you used green to indicate action (green means go!) and red to indicate a pause or to make a correction (red means no!)? The use of color in online publishing and communication can be helpful when providing information, attracting attention, or giving directions. You can highlight key phrases with a bold neon or demonstrate corrections with strikethrough and red text. You can celebrate color choice as a decorative element or use it to help you format and organize. However, always be mindful of the fact that everyone sees color differently, and some people do not see it at all. This is called color blindness.

Interestingly, gender is an indicator of color blindness. The National Eye Institute approximates that 1 in 12 men suffer from some variation of red-green colorblindness, meaning that the colors red and green are difficult to interpret and in some cases are indistinguishable. Blue-yellow color blindness is the second most common type of color blindness, making it difficult to distinguish between blue and green and red and yellow. The least common form is complete color blindness, a condition with which those impacted cannot see color at all, but instead perceive color as shades of gray.

It is worth considering color blindness is not the only factor when choosing colors. People with low vision also struggle to perceive color, and when contrast is low, anyone might struggle to understand the meaning of a visual or of text. What if street signs featured magenta text on a red background? Everyone would be taking the wrong turn and end up lost. When creating content in any context, remember that high contrast (think black text on white background) is the easiest for all people to perceive. Web designers familiar with RGB hexadecimal format can use a contrast checker like the one offered by WebAIM or this accessible color palette builder.

Perhaps more important than providing context is providing enough descriptive information to convey essential information. Don’t let color be the only means of conveying information! For example, “Click the blue button” is not as helpful as “Click the blue button to the right of the search bar.” Using red font to indicate errors is not as helpful as using headings and comments to indicate the need for edits. However, not all color choices need to be accessible. Most colors are decorative (and fun!). Only when the color is used to help convey information is it valuable to consider whether color choice hinders accessibility.

Helpful Resources

- [WebAIM: Color Blindness](#)
- [NIH Color Blindness](#)
- [WebAIM Color Contrast Checker](#)
- [Accessible Color Palette Builder](#)