

University of Memphis

University of Memphis Digital Commons

Between the Stacks

University Libraries

5-1-2023

Between the Stacks, 05-2023

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Accessibility Committee

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Between the Stacks - May 2023

The University Libraries Internal Monthly Newsletter

May 2023

Upcoming Events



Exam Week Stressbusters

- **Tai Chi, Stress Free** - Friday, April 28, Noon-1PM, McWherter 2nd Floor Commons. Take a break and practice meditative Tai Chi to help relieve your mental and physical stress. Everyone is welcome to stop by!
- **Squish Away Stress** - Monday, May 1, 11:30AM-1:30PM, McWherter Rotunda. Make slime & stress balls with Student Health & Counseling Services, and pick up some stress less tips!
- **Pet a Pup, Stress Less** - Tuesday, May 2, 11AM-1PM, McWherter 2nd Floor Commons. Four West TN therapy dogs will be visiting. Everyone is welcome to stop by!
- **Unfold Your Stress** - Tuesday, May 2, All day, McWherter Rotunda. A table with easy origami patterns and colored paper will be set up in the rotunda. Take a seat and fold away!
- **Color Me Calm** - Wednesday, May 3, All day, McWherter Rotunda. A table with coloring pages, coloring pencils, markers & crayons will be set up in the rotunda. Enjoy some calming coloring!
- **Solve Your Stress** - Thursday, May 4, All day, McWherter Rotunda. A table with grab-n-go brain games & word puzzles will be set up in the rotunda. Stop by & solve away!

Libraries Annual Gathering

Monday, May 8, 10AM-2:30PM, McWherter Library 2nd Floor Commons

The morning will kick off with opening remarks from Dr. John Evans (Executive Director) and a short presentation from Dr. Kenneth Haggerty (Associate Dean for Innovation and Scholarly Engagement) on the Libraries' new strategic plan and the Digital Commons, after which branch librarians and department heads will introduce their faculty and staff members.

After lunch, everyone will have an opportunity to learn more about each department, which will segue into a game of Libraries-themed Jeopardy with prizes coordinated by Shelia Gaines. For baking and brownie enthusiasts, there will be a brownie bake-off with prizes coordinated by Sofiya Dahman.

This gathering is a rare opportunity to meet and socialize with all of your colleagues and find out what's going on around the Libraries. We hope everyone enjoys the day!

Fresh, hot coffee will be available before 10 a.m. and a lunch buffet will be provided.

WeTALC Conference 2023

Monday, May 15, UofM Law Library

This year's theme is "Show Us What You're Working With." All West Tennessee academic library workers are invited to attend! [Register here by May 6>](#)

Keynote Speaker:

"Just Show Me the Law: Helping Patrons with Legal Topics" - Blake Beals, *UofM Law Library*

Presentations from WeTALC Members:

- “Library Updates as Action News: Increasing Engagement through Monthly Library Newscasts” - Sarah Thompson, Jenessa McElfresh, Tamara Nelson, *UT Health Science Center*
- “Keeping the Lights On: Maintaining a Dissertation Retreat Through Staffing Changes and Continuing COVID” - **April Hobbs**, **Carl Hess**, *UofM*
- “Multilingual Health Information Services: An Outreach Project in Progress” - **Dr. Irma Singarella**, *UofM Health Sciences Library*
- “Brunch with the Books: Better Outreach for a Branch Library” - **Olivia Chin** (WeTALC Executive Committee Chair); *UofM Lambuth Library*

UM3D Events

UM3D will offer **Canvas trainings**. View the full UM3D [events calendar](#)>

TNLA Conference 2023





1 - Sarah Fischer (Left; Exhibitor & First Time Attendee) & Frankie Perry (Right; Conference Committee Member)



2 - Dwight Hunter (Left; TNLA President) & Cathy Farley (Right; TNLA Executive Director)



3 - Sylverna Ford & Shelia Gaines



4 - Fun at the Reception



5 - Fun at the Reception

The **Tennessee Library Association Conference 2023** took place April 11-13 in Memphis. [View the full conference schedule>](#)

Presenters from the UofM Libraries:

- **Karen Brunsting, Tiffany Day, Caitlin Harrington, Sofiya Dahman,** and Jaafar Al-Azzawi (from UofM Disability Resources) presented “Improving Accessibility of Library Services and Resources: A collaboration between University Libraries and the Office of Disability Resources for Students.”
- **Karen Brunsting, Tiffany Day, Caitlin Harrington,** and **Sofiya Dahman** presented “Starting from Scratch: The Importance of Effective Documentation Practices for Training New Hires.”
- **Ashley Roach-Freiman** and Cassandra Taylor (Rutherford County Library) presented “Reaching for the Stars: Learning Professional Writing Skills.”
- **Ashley Roach-Freiman, Carl Hess,** and **Jessica McClure** presented “Wait, We're Drawing?: Engaging Visual Strategies for First-Year Library Orientation.”

- **Carl Hess** and **Jessica McClure** presented “Redesigning Workflows and Research Guides.”

Committee Members & More from the UofM Libraries:

- **Roderick Burns** is a UofM Libraries Institutional Representative to TNLA and was the event photographer.
- **Carl Hess** was Co-Chair for Public Relations on the Conference Committee.
- **Jessica McClure** is a Chair of the Intellectual Freedom Committee.
- **Marie Peoples** is a UofM Libraries Institutional Representative to TNLA and worked at the Registration booth.
- **Frankie Perry** served on the TNLA Planning Committee, responsible for reception entertainment.
- **Bess Robinson** was Co-Chair of Registration.
- **Perveen Rustomfram** is Chair of the Advisory Committee on State Documents.
- **Gregory Woods** and Benjamin Murphy were DJs at the reception.

Thank you to everyone from the Libraries who helped make the conference a success, and congratulations to those who presented!

Announcements



- **Kameishea Bingham** (UM3D) joined the Libraries in April. Welcome, Kameishea!
- **Nancy Potter** (IAS Department) joined the Libraries as of May 1. Welcome, Nancy!
- **Caitlin Harrington** is now the permanent Department Head of Information Access Services. Congrats, Caitlin!
- **New Student Orientation Academic Advising Sessions** will be taking place in McWherter Library (1st Floor Learning Commons & Government Publications) throughout the summer.

- **McWherter Library hours** during the summer interim, May 5 through May 28, will be Monday-Friday, 8AM-5PM. We will be closed May 29 for Memorial Day.

Accessibility Committee Column

Accessible Events

By Carl Hess

Hosting events can create a lot of potential barriers for accessibility. There are a lot of factors to keep in mind across different event types and formats, but there are a few general principles you can keep track of to ensure your event is inclusive of people with disabilities. First, accessibility for all events starts with planning. As an event planner, you need to begin with the expectation that participants will have a variety of needs and that you must provide equivalent experiences for all participants. Marketing is key for offering accessible events. Marketing materials should include any accessibility information about the event as well as an accessibility statement that states that all individuals are welcome, provides a process for requesting an accommodation, and provides a contact person for accessibility inquiries. The marketing itself also needs to be accessible, such as searchable text and tagged document structure for PDF digital flyers, alt text on social media images, captioning on marketing videos, etc.

Other accessibility considerations will depend on the format of your event. For an in-person event, start by thinking about how someone will get there, such as accessible parking options, public transit and shuttle services, accessible entrances, elevators, and barriers in the building along the path of travel that could be removed. Considerations for the event layout include having routes between furniture for people in wheelchairs or with service animals to move easily, offering a variety of seats to accommodate different needs (ex. chairs with and without arms), providing spaces for people with wheelchairs that do not push them to the periphery, and providing microphones (as well as ensuring their use). If food is offered, make sure people with dietary restrictions have a way to get information about what ingredients are used and have a chance to request food that meets their requirements.

Online events offer a different set of considerations. Turn on automated captions in your web conferencing platform like Zoom. Any videos included should be captioned. If the speaker is presenting visual images, they need to describe them for people with visual disabilities. Ideally, accessible presentation materials will be shared with attendees in advance so that they may follow along. For a hybrid event, you will need to think through considerations for both in-person and online events.

Use the resources below for more recommendations.

Resources for Accessible Events

- [Creating Inclusive Events](#): Word document overview from DRS on best practices for accessible events that are inclusive of people with disabilities.
- [Planning Inclusive Events](#): slides from last summer's Accessibility Brunch and Learn presentation from DRS.
- [Accessible Meeting and Event Checklist](#): list of things to consider when making an event accessible from Cornell. Focused on in-person events and meetings, but there are also links for online events.

- [Accessible Virtual Events](#): best practices from the University of Pittsburgh on hosting accessible online events.
- [How to Host Inclusive Hybrid Meetings](#): recommendations from University of Wisconsin Madison's Information Technology department on running meetings that have both in-person and online components.

Upcoming Accessibility Trainings

- [Accessibility & EDI in Marketing](#)
 - Boston Library Consortium webinar
 - May 4 at 12:00 PM CDT
- [5 Steps to an Accessible Document](#)
 - NNLM webinar
 - May 4 at 1:00 pm CDT
- [OER Production Series – Technical Accessibility](#)
 - BCcampus webinar
 - May 10 at 12:00 pm CDT
- [Disability Accommodations in Libraries](#)
 - Niche Academy webinar
 - May 17 at 1:00 pm CDT
- [Accessibility Summer Camp](#)
 - Virtual conference
 - June 2 from 8am - 4pm CDT

Contact & Follow Us

- We have a new [Marketing Resources page](#) on the Libraries intranet site. Be sure to view this page for your event and marketing needs.
- Want something included in the newsletter or on social media? Email the Libraries marketing team at lib_marketing@memphis.edu.
- Don't forget to follow @UofMLibraries on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) or [YouTube](#) to learn about upcoming events, interesting resources & more! Highlighted events can also be found on the [Libraries homepage](#).