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Between the Stacks

University Libraries

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12-4-2023

### Between the Stacks, 12-2023

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Accessibility Committee

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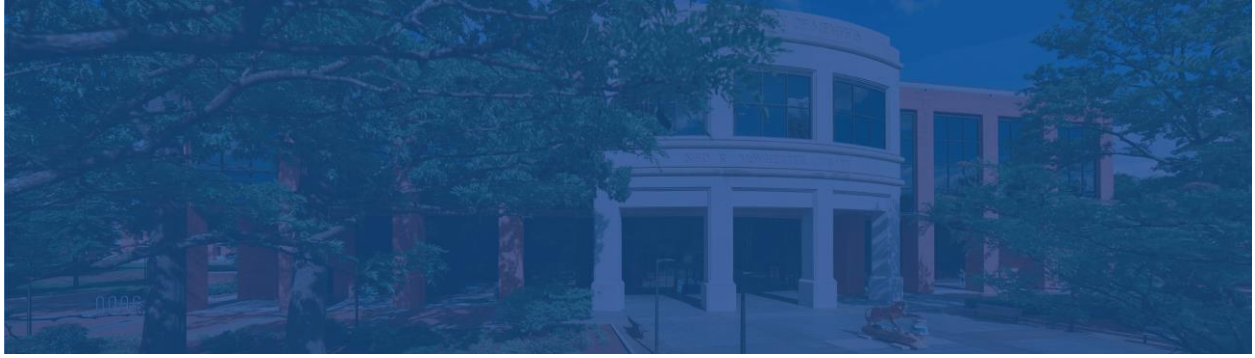
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# Between the Stacks: December 2023

*The University Libraries Internal Monthly Newsletter*

*December 2023*

Events & More



Upcoming Events

EXAM WEEK STRESSBUSTERS  
✓ Squish Away Stress



Tuesday, Dec. 5, 11AM-1PM  
McWherter Library Rotunda

Make slime & stress balls with  
Student Health & Counseling Services,  
and pick up some stress less tips!

For full calendar: [libcal.memphis.edu](http://libcal.memphis.edu)

EXAM WEEK STRESSBUSTERS  
✓ Therapy Dogs



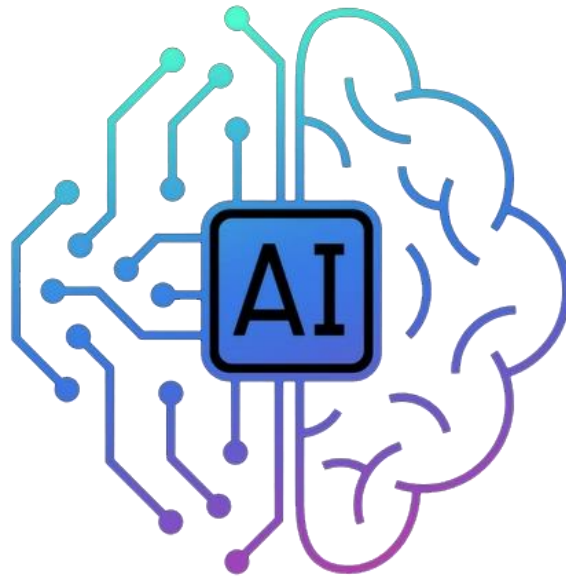
Thursday, Dec. 7, 11AM-1PM  
McWherter sandbox (1st FL)

Take a study break and pet a  
West TN Therapy Dog!

For full calendar: [libcal.memphis.edu](http://libcal.memphis.edu)



- **UofM Tigers ASL Club Study Session** – December 5, 4:30-7PM, McWherter 2nd Floor Commons. *Not open to all.*
- **Exam Week Stressbuster: Squish Away Stress** (SHCS Event) – December 5, 11AM-1PM, McWherter Rotunda. Make slime & stress balls with Student Health & Counseling Services, and pick up some stress less tips!
- **Exam Week Stressbuster: Pet a Pup** – Thursday, December 7, 11AM-1PM, sandbox creatorspace. Take a study break and pet a West TN therapy dog!
- **Exam Week Stressbusters: Color Me Calm** – Friday, December 8, McWherter Rotunda. A table with coloring pages, coloring pencils and markers will be set up in the rotunda. Take a seat and color away, or take some pages to go!
- **Exam Week Stressbusters: Unfold Your Stress** – Monday, December 11, McWherter Rotunda. A table with easy origami patterns and colored paper will be set up in the rotunda. Take a seat and fold away, or take some paper to go!
- **Exam Week Stressbusters: Solve Your Stress** – Tuesday, December 12, McWherter Rotunda. A table with grab-n-go brain games & word puzzles will be set up in the rotunda. Stop by & solve away!
- **International Students Orientation/Resources Fair** – Friday, January 12, 1-4PM, International Center, Room 115. *The Libraries will have its own informational table.*



### The UM3D Winter Summit

The Summit will take place **February 22 & 23, 1-4PM, in McWherter Library's 2nd Floor Commons & via Zoom**. Each year, the Summit showcases UofM faculty's innovative teaching strategies and identifies a specific trend, technology, or pedagogical concept to spotlight. This year's Summit will spotlight UofM faculty's response to the recent increase in the availability and use of AI tools like ChatGPT and Bard. On **Thursday, February 22**, the Summit will take place in-person in McWherter Library's 2nd Floor Commons where light refreshments will be provided, and will feature presentations demonstrating innovative approaches to hybrid, online, and in-person instructional programs, courses, and projects. On **Friday, February 23**, the Summit will be held via Zoom and feature two panel discussions affording the opportunity to learn from and engage with other faculty who are creating pathways for student success and instructional innovation.

### Call for Proposals

UM3D is now seeking presentation proposals for the first day of the Winter Summit. They are interested in presentation proposals related to AI and its impact on teaching and learning within higher education, particularly in relation to innovative instruction and assessment strategies; student AI awareness, proficiency, and ethical use initiatives; and research implications. While this year's Summit will spotlight



topics related to AI, they welcome all presentation proposals highlighting any aspect of innovation in teaching and learning at the UofM. Presentations should be approximately 20 minutes long and will take place on Thursday, February 22, in McWherter Library's 2nd Floor Commons. Please [submit your proposal here](#) by **January 31, 2024**.

[Learn more about the UM3D Winter Summit>](#)

## Announcements



## The Sapphire Awards



1 - Image of Carl Hess, Frankie Perry, and Shelia Gaines (from left to right).

**Thank you to the University Libraries and Center for Writing and Communication (CWC) employees who contributed to the professional clothing drive this summer!** The donations resulted in the Libraries and CWC winning first prize in the campus-wide competition and receiving an invitation to the Sapphire Awards.

The Sapphire Awards is an annual evening event recognizing and celebrating the success of students in First Scholars, the Office of First-Gen Student Success, Opportunity Scholars, and TRIOs. The event is part of the National First-Generation Celebration Week and coordinated by the [First Generation Office](#). The event was held on Wednesday, November 8, where the Libraries and CWC were officially awarded with first place in the competition. Libraries employees who attended include **Carl Hess, Frankie Perry, Shelia Gaines, and Ann Hudson. Thank you for representing the Libraries!** Stop by the Libraries Administration office to see the award, which is on display in the 204 Reception Area.

## Employee Spotlights

- **Benjamin Clanton** is now the Emerging Technology Integration Specialist and head of *the sandbox* creatorspace. Congrats, Ben!
- **Scott Kley Contini** has joined UM3D as their new Instructional Technology Trainer. Welcome, Scott!

## Libraries Hours

- **McWherter Library hours during exam week, December 7-December 14, will be:**
  - Monday-Thursday, 7:30AM-1AM
  - Friday, 7:30AM-10PM
  - Saturday, 10AM-10PM



- Sunday, Noon-1AM
- Exception: Thursday, December 14, 7:30AM-8PM
- **McWherter Library hours during the winter interim, December 15-January 14, will be:**
  - Monday-Friday, 8AM-5PM
  - Closed weekends
- **All Libraries locations will be closed December 25-January 1.**
- **For all Libraries hours, visit [libcal.memphis.edu/hours](http://libcal.memphis.edu/hours)**
- **For a list of all upcoming University holidays, visit [memphis.edu/hr/holidays](http://memphis.edu/hr/holidays)**

## Accessibility Committee Column



*The University Libraries Accessibility Committee will share and update some of their older columns to refresh our knowledge and share information with new staff and faculty at the Libraries. In our second updated column, we will discuss the accessibility checkers in software such as Microsoft Office.*

### Accessibility Checkers

By Carl Hess



Last month we went over what accessibility is, and this month we are going to start taking steps to make our work more accessible, starting with digital accessibility. [digital accessibility](#). Every day we create and share digital materials, from email to Office documents, that could present barriers to disabled people if we do not create them with accessibility in mind. There are many aspects to digital accessibility, often making it feel overwhelming, but you can make quick improvements by using the built-in accessibility checkers in a lot of common software.

Accessibility checkers are like spelling and grammar checkers, but they identify common issues in documents that would make them harder for people with disabilities to use, especially those who use [assistive technology](#) like screen readers to interact with these documents. The checkers then make suggestions for how to fix the problems. Like with spelling and grammar checkers, accessibility checkers don't always catch everything, and knowing [best practices for digital accessibility](#) makes solving the issues they identify easier. But using an accessibility checker is an easy way to start making accessibility improvements today, and as we learn digital accessibility best practices in this column, you will be able to use them more effectively.

### Resources on Accessibility Checkers

- Microsoft Office (Outlook, Word, Excel, PowerPoint, OneNote)
  - [Make your content accessible to everyone with the Accessibility Checker](#) [includes video]
  - [Improve accessibility with the Accessibility Checker](#)
  - [Rules for the Accessibility Checker](#)
- Adobe Acrobat Pro
  - [Check accessibility of PDFs \(Acrobat Pro\)](#)
- Websites & web-hosted content
  - [WAVE web accessibility evaluation tool](#)
- Canvas
  - [How do I use the Accessibility Checker in the Rich Content Editor as an instructor?](#)

### Upcoming Accessibility Trainings

- Webinar: [Creative Methods for Enabling the Participation of People with Disabilities in Research](#)
  - Ways to include the experiences of disabled people in research that are meaningful and inclusive.
  - Tuesday, December 5 from 12:00 to 2:00 PM Central
  - BCcampus
- Webinar: [Policy Writing and Implementation with an Equity Lens](#)
  - Discusses how to focus on policy writing as a process that includes a focus on equity.
  - Wednesday, December 6 from 1:00 to 2:00 PM Central

- Niche Academy

## Contact & Follow Us

- Planning **events** for the fall semester? Plan at least a month ahead! We have a [Marketing Resources page](#) on the Libraries intranet site. Be sure to review this page for your **event** and **marketing** requests. It contains many FAQs.
- Want something included in the weekly **email**, monthly **newsletter**, or on **social media**? Email the Libraries marketing team at [lib\\_marketing@memphis.edu](mailto:lib_marketing@memphis.edu).
- Don't forget to follow @UofMLibraries on [Facebook](#), [X \(formerly known as Twitter\)](#), [Instagram](#) or [YouTube](#) to learn about upcoming events, interesting resources & more! Highlighted events can also be found on the [Libraries homepage](#).