Between the Stacks, 05-2024

Anna Swearengen
Michelle Dry

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Between the Stacks: May 2024

The University Libraries Internal Monthly Newsletter

May 2024

Events

Upcoming Events

SUMMER INSTITUTE
DIVE IN & LEARN

Wednesday, May 15, 2024 | Noon-3 PM | In-Person
McWhorter Library: 2nd Floor Commons, Room 225 & Room 226
UM3D Summer Institute 2024: Dive in & Learn!

*Wednesday, May 15, Noon-3 PM, McWherter Library, 2nd Floor Commons, and Rooms 225 & 226*

Join us for UM3D Summer Institute 2024: Dive in & Learn! This open house event geared toward equipping you with the latest tools for a successful fall semester will be held Wednesday, May 15, noon-3 PM at McWherter Library, 2nd Floor Commons and Rooms 225 & 226. Learn how to leverage Microsoft Teams for effortless course management and have conversations about AI in the classroom. Event sessions will include “Getting Started with Microsoft Teams” and “Advanced Tips and Tricks for Microsoft Teams.” UM3D’s AI Community of Practice will also showcase generative AI resources available to UofM faculty. Light refreshments will be provided. [Learn more>](#)

Memphis Areas Library Council (MALC) Meeting & Award Ceremony

*Thursday, May 30, 5:30-7:30PM, 2nd Floor Commons*

Dissertation Writers Retreat (DWR) Summer Retreat

*Monday, June 3, and Wednesday, June 5, 9 AM-4 PM, McWherter Library 2nd Floor Commons & via Zoom*

Are you working on your dissertation, thesis, or other academic writing? This free event is geared toward master's and doctoral students who are currently working on their thesis, dissertation, or other academic writing and focuses on improving writing and writing skills, completing a project, and what to do afterward. There will be presentations, writing blocks, and opportunities for writing consultations. [Learn more>](#)

UM3D Training

UM3D offers Canvas and Microsoft Teams training every week. To view the full schedule, visit the [UM3D Events Calendar>](#)
Did you know that the Digital Commons includes the University Archives?

The University Archives of the Special Collections Department collects, preserves, and organizes historical documents that tell the history of the University of Memphis from its foundation in 1912 as the West Tennessee State Normal School, and makes them available for research by students, faculty, staff, alumni, and the public. The collection includes yearbooks, photographs, publications, and more.

View the University Archives now>
Prusa MK4 3D Printers are now available to reserve in the sandbox!

UofM students and employees can now attend 3D Printing Workshops (when available) where they can learn how to use the Prusa MK4 3D printers and gain access to reserve them. To learn about upcoming workshops, visit the Libraries events page.

If UofM instructors would like to request private instruction on the 3D printers or Glowforge laser cutter, they can email thesandbox@memphis.edu.

Visit the sandbox main page>
Announcements

- **Dr. Gerald Chaudron** is the University Libraries Executive Director as of May 1. Congrats and welcome, Gerald!

- **Nancy Potter** will be the Systems LA III in Information Access Services beginning May 6. Congrats, Nancy!

- **Davy Marsicano** will be the Electronic Resources LA III in Information Access Services beginning May 10. Congrats, Davy!

- **McWherter Library hours during May will be:**
  - **Summer Interim, May 3-26:** Monday-Friday, 8am-5pm; closed weekends
  - **University Holiday, May 27:** Closed for Memorial Day
  - **Summer Term, May 28 - August 2:** Monday-Thursday, 7:30am-Midnight; Friday, 7:30am-6pm; Saturday, 10am-6pm; Sunday, 1-10pm

- **Tiger News** did a feature on NEDxStudents (begins at 26:55) [view now>](#) and interviewed Brigitte Billeaudeaux about our recent Special Collections exhibit (begins at 16:55) [view now>](#)
Several Libraries faculty presented at the April 2-4 2024 TNLA Conference. Congrats! View the full schedule>

- **Tiffany Day**, *Translator/Traitor: Conceptual Analysis & Translation in Cataloging*
- **Bess Robinson & Perveen Rustomfram**, *Making New Connections: Academic Librarians Engage with AI in Library Instruction and Beyond*
- **Sofiya Dahman, Carl Hess & Marie Peeples**, *One Click To Connect: Expanding Access To The Collection With A Previously Underused Product*
- **Bess Robinson & Perveen Rustomfram**, *AI AI OH!!!: How Public and School Librarians Are Innovating With AI*

44 Years: Dr. John Evans and the University Libraries
4 - Dr. John Evans, Libraries' Executive Director (2018-2024)

5 - Dr. John Evans posing for a photo for The Commercial Appeal in 1988 (Image from the Libraries' Special Collections)
Dr. John Evans retired from the University of Memphis on April 30 after working at the Libraries for 44 years in various positions, the last of which was as our Libraries' Executive Director and Associate Dean. He has been instrumental in making the Libraries what it is today. Thank you, best wishes, and you will be missed!
Timeline of Dr. Evan’s Tenure at the University:

- July 7, 1980 – Began working at Memphis State University in Information Retrieval
- 1981 – Became Head of Reference, Microforms, and Interlibrary Loan
- 1992 – Became Head of Circulation
- 1996 – Became the University's first Web Services Librarian
- 2000 – Became Head of Information Systems
- October 2018 – Became Associate Dean & Executive Director of the University Libraries

From Dr. Gerald Chaudron, incoming Executive Director of the University Libraries:

“John’s legacy has been to foster the creation of a more collaborative culture within the University Libraries (UL) and in the UL’s relationship with faculty and students across campus. He has encouraged initiatives to make the UL much more outward facing, becoming the true heart of the campus. And he has been the UL employees’ greatest advocate, focused on their morale and empowering them to do the best work they can.”

From Dr. Kenneth Haggerty, Associate Dean for Innovation and Scholarly Engagement:

“Dr. John Evans leaves behind a legacy of leading the library through turbulent times and unforeseen challenges by steering the University Libraries with resolve and confidence during the COVID-19 pandemic. When uncertainty emerged, he ensured that the resources and services provided by the University Libraries remained accessible to all. His commitment to maintaining services, even in the face of adversity, exemplified resilience and dedication.

Whether it was streamlining processes, enhancing user experience, or fostering collaboration, our director’s steady hand guided the library toward excellence.

But it wasn’t just about the present; it was about shaping the future. His strategic foresight led to innovative initiatives—digitization projects and sustainable practices—that will resonate for generations to come.

As we bid farewell to Dr. Evans, we celebrate not just his accomplishments but the enduring impact he has had on our University Libraries. His legacy is one of resilience, consistency, and forward-thinking—a beacon for all who follow.”

From Bess Robinson, Head of Research & Instructional Services, and Perveen Rustomfram, Head of Government Publications:

"John has been a strong leader for the Libraries with a discerning, far-seeing, and judicious vision, guiding the University Libraries with a steady hand. He has modernized library operations in terms of electronic access, resources, a makerspace, and an up-to-date digital repository. Leveraging the individual strengths of his staff, he has consistently fostered innovation by encouraging fresh ideas. Under his leadership, the Libraries have become more responsive to the needs of faculty, students, staff, and the community."
From Dr. Joel Roberts, Head of the Music Library:

“John Evans is directly responsible for improving the relationship between the University Libraries and the rest of campus. This change began in 2018 when he assumed his current role. I now realize that changing the Libraries’ image was his primary goal, and the Libraries’ have developed—and are continuing to develop—more collaborative relationships with other departments across campus. We also see an improvement in relationships with the student body. He immediately encouraged all the libraries—McWherter and the branches—to be creative in bringing people through the libraries’ doors. We began hosting various events that I believe were directly related to increased library traffic. As one who was here both before and after his term as our leader, I remember the newfound sense of excitement. He was very open to trying new things, and he dispelled the notion that things around here were not capable of changing.

It is also worth noting that John’s leadership steered us through the uncertainty of COVID and the return to the post-COVID environment. This time period was stressful for everyone, yet John led the Libraries through this challenging time. Even during these lean times, John prioritized filling positions—many of which had been vacant for years. He also repurposed older positions to better serve our students (e.g., the Virtual Instruction Librarian position). John retires from the Libraries at a point when it has a more skilled complement of faculty and staff than it has ever had, and that is not by coincidence: he has been very deliberate in filling positions with people who truly want to make the University Libraries a better place.

John witnessed a great deal of change over the course of his career. From very rudimentary computer-based library systems to our having an institutional repository platform like Digital Commons, John has been directly involved in the technological changes that have impacted the University of Memphis University Libraries for over four decades. John was at the helm when the University of Memphis attained R1 status, and he has been a constant advocate for the Libraries’ acquisition of resources to support the University’s increase in academic prestige. While this retirement temporarily leaves a hole that would seemingly be difficult to fill, the University Libraries’ success in the future will be rooted in the foundation that John built during his time in charge.”

Contact & Follow Us

- Planning events for the summer or next 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 that will help you plan.

- Want something included in the weekly email, monthly newsletter, or on social media? Email the Libraries marketing team at lib_marketing@memphis.edu.

- Don’t forget to follow @UofMLibraries on Facebook, X (formerly known as Twitter), Instagram and YouTube to learn about upcoming events, interesting resources, and more! Highlighted events can also be found on the Libraries homepage.