

2021-2011 University Libraries Annual Report

Library people doing library things

We've had lots of new people join us this year, lots of folks moving up in the world, and some trying new things within the Libraries.

- Promotion - Anthony LaBat - Operations and Processing Associate
- Promotion - Gail Williams - Interlibrary Loan Manager
- New - Genevia Chamblee-Smith - Digital Projects Fellow
- New - Becky Briggs Becker - University Archivist
- Promotion - Dr. Cindy Thompson - Dean of Libraries
- Promotion - Tracey Hughes - Director of DEI
- New - Lynn Gullickson Spencer - Head, Cataloging & Metadata
- New - Sarah Wunder - Part Time LIS
- New - Mēgan Oliver - Head of Digital Projects
- New - Harry Brewster - Late Night/Weekend LIS
- New - Sai Jonnalagadda - Part Time LIS
- New - Courtney Strimel - Teaching & Learning Librarian
- Transfer - Liz Johnson - LIS Sr., Electronic Resources & Acquisitions
- Transfer - Bryanna Beasley
- Promotion - Michael Bednar - Merlin/Mobius Reserves LIS
- Promotion - Sandy Rodriguez - Associate Dean, Special Collections & Archives
- Promotion - Paul Wagner - Senior LIS Supervisor

Story of the year: Making history

Preserving history and making it at the same time, the award-winning student project “Making History: The Rise of Gay Rights in Kansas City” became unexpectedly controversial when the Missouri State Capitol cut the exhibit’s feature in Jefferson City short after a complaint from a congressional aide. The censorship of this vital historical content attracted wide attention, bringing in new interest that led to fabrication of a second traveling version of the exhibit. Since its removal, the exhibit has, instead, traveled throughout Missouri and beyond, being exhibited at museums, libraries, and community centers.

“Making History” reveals Kansas City’s role in the organization of the early gay rights movement, telling the story through the contributions of “ordinary people who accomplished extraordinary things.” It was collaboratively curated in 2016 by students in UMKC’s public history department, under the guidance of UMKC Libraries archivists and their history professors. The student group received a National Council on Public History award for their work.

The journey that the exhibit undertook after being removed from the state capitol resulted in a number of new ways for users to engage with it and sparked new partnerships and projects.

Grants & Gifts

We're grateful for the support we've received through the year from our many generous donors and library supporters!

- \$30,942.57 H. Vincent Jones Jr Donations for Digital Special Collections
- \$11,520.00 Gifts from various donors in honor of John Tangeman
- \$4,615.00 Gifts from various donors for GLAMA
- \$5,2156.50 Gifts from Isaac Rena Jonathan's American Century Fund proceeds.
- \$38,150.00 Gift from the Starr Women's Hall of Fame event proceeds
- \$50,000.00 Gift from Dr. Elizabeth Noble for Library Services
- \$3,790.21 Gifts from various donors for Libraries' Greatest Need

Story of the year: Changing spaces

We welcomed our partners at the State Historical Society of Missouri's Kansas City Research Center to the third floor of Miller Nichols Library in the fall of 2020, bringing their collections and services under the same roof as the University Libraries for the first time.

Geosciences Museum

The Richard L. Sutton Geosciences Museum joined us as well, moving in their collection of rocks, minerals, and fossils, making a surprisingly sparkly addition to the library as well as an educational one.

Introducing the Digital Collaboration Studio

The new Digital Collaboration Studio, another addition to the library's third floor, is a collaborative effort between the Libraries and the Digital and Public Humanities initiative at UMKC. The space supports the use of digital primary source materials and artifacts for teaching, learning, and scholarship.

Health Sciences Library

Study and work areas at the Health Sciences Library were improved by painting the entire space for the first time in decades and installing brand new furniture. While we hope to renovate the library more extensively soon, we are glad to make incremental upgrades.

Finding Your Way

An entirely new system of wayfinding signage was devised for the Libraries, focused on improving accessibility and user experience for everyone who visits our spaces. We redesigned and replaced our building directories, floorplan maps, and signage throughout every floor of the library that assists users looking for library destinations

from classrooms to technology workstations. The project started at Miller Nichols Library and is making its way to the Health Sciences Library this year.

Scholarships & Awards

- Myisha Sims - Living the Values Award, March 2022
- Anya Pogorelova - 2022 Martha Jane Starr Library Research Award
- Hunter Miesner - 2022 Friends of the Library Scholarship
- LaBudde Special Collections - Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Community Engagement - May 2022

Tony Awards

Dr. Anthony Labat was awarded 3 separate notable grants: totaling \$4,435

- \$2,435.60 Show Me Steps: Georgia Archives Institute
- \$1,000.00 UMKC Staff Professional Enrichment and Emergency Relief Funds (SPEER): Georgia Archives Institute
- \$152.22 Kansas City Area Archivists Member Scholar: Georgia Archives institute

Building relationships for engaged learning

Celebrating Luyben Music

When a longtime Kansas City destination for instruments and sheet music donated its archive to LaBudde Special Collections, Luyben Music had recently relocated from its historic location, leaving dedicated customers without a last opportunity to visit. The students of the UMKC Conservatory's Advanced Research and Bibliography class stepped in to offer an opportunity for connection. Assisted by the professors teaching the class and the LaBudde Special Collections team, we were able to celebrate 40 years of Luyben Music, display the photographs, advertisements, articles and other items in the newly donated collection, give everyone a chance to gather once more, and show the Conservatory students how archives support the communities they represent every day.

Personal Librarians

Our Personal Librarian program is live and taking off, building relationships and creating more engaged learning. This new program offers students the chance to be matched with a librarian, connecting them with a name and face at the Libraries. The goal of this new program is to humanize using the Library and all of its resources, making that process more accessible, effective, and even enjoyable for students.

Numbers this year

- 379,793 library visits
- 630,801 library website page views
- 1,266 database searches per day
- 366,987 full-text article views
- 12,906 items borrowed through Interlibrary Loan
- 26,361 archival collections viewed online

- 3,063 students in library instruction classes
- 226 one-on-one research consultations