TJ & Mercantile spruce up lobby & building facade

Patrons will have a much easier time finding the UMSL Libraries on North campus this fall! There is new signage on the outside of the building: “UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES”, “THOMAS JEFFERSON LIBRARY”, and “ST. LOUIS MERCANTILE LIBRARY.”

The biggest change however, will be noticed as patrons walk into the lobby. In collaboration with the St. Louis Mercantile Library, the Thomas Jefferson Library lobby has received a face lift. First, a new, curved wood cabinet displays our New Books and Bestsellers collections. These shelves provide library patrons with easy access to the new books we obtain in support of the many disciplines taught at the University. The New Books are available for immediate check out and will be displayed for six to eight weeks. After the display period, the books will go to the regular library stacks. These books will include books written by UMSL faculty. Patrons may keep up-to-date with all new acquisitions by browsing the link from the Library’s home page at: http://www.umsl.edu/library. Click on the New Books link.

We have brought the St. Louis Mercantile Library’s Bestsellers collection to the new shelves. “Although dedicated to the formation of an educational and historical book collection, the Mercantile Library also never failed to recognize the public taste for quality fiction. The Mercantile Library is proud to continue its tradition of providing quality fiction with the Bestsellers collection,” said John Hoover, the Director of the Mercantile Library. The Bestsellers may be checked out by UMSL faculty, staff and students. This New Books and Bestsellers area has comfortable seating for patrons to browse the collections.

The lobby is decorated with artwork and artifacts provided by the St. Louis Mercantile Library to showcase the range of special collections housed in the libraries.

Signage and maps have been added to each of the five levels of the Libraries to make locating resources easier.

New Department Heads

Karen Robinson
- Karen is both a half-time Reference librarian at the Thomas Jefferson Library and the St. Louis-based Clinical Instructor for the University of Missouri - Columbia’s School of Information Science & Learning Technologies (SISLT).
- As the SISLT Clinical Instructor, Karen will teach in the library science program. Karen also supervises UMC library science practicum students in the UMSL Libraries.
- Before coming to UMSL, Karen was Head of Reference at Regent University in Virginia Beach and has served as Head of Special Collections. She was an adjunct faculty member at The Catholic University of America’s School of Library & Information Science.
- Holds a B. A. from Oral Roberts University, an M. L. S. from Emporia State, and an M. A. from Regent University.

Janis Peach
- Head of Collection Development, administers the selection of all library materials, including books, periodicals, and databases.
- Most recently was Associate Professor; Library Instructional Services, and Collection Development Coordinator, at the University of Illinois at Springfield.
- Holds B. S. & M. S. degrees from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Lisandra Carmichael
- Head of Access Services at the Thomas Jefferson Library, which consists of the Circulation Department (including Reserves and MERLIN/MOBUS book requests), the Stacks Unit (shelving/stacks management), and the Interlibrary Loan Department.
- Worked at the UMSL Libraries for the last eight years in the Interlibrary Loan, Government Documents, and Reference Departments.
- Holds a B. A. from the University of Puerto Rico, and an M.L.S. from the University of Missouri - Columbia.
MERLIN Library Catalog has a new interface

The MERLIN Library Catalog has a new interface. The functionality will remain the same but the page now features a tab navigation system. The tabs are Library Catalog, Course Reserves, My Library Account, Other Catalogs, and Help.

The Library Catalog tab includes the main catalog search types: author, title, subject, journal title, and keyword. The searches will behave the same way they did in the previous version of the catalog. The My Library Account tab will allow you to manage your library account through a secure connection. The Other Catalogs tab has links to various library catalogs that may be helpful.

Once you have done a search you will have the opportunity to select records for viewing later, exporting, or saving by clicking on the “Add to Bookbag” icon. When ready to look at your list, use the “View Bookbag” icon. From there you will be able to export or print your selected items or you can even request that they be sent to you from another library.

1800 Full Text Titles Added to Online Collection

The University Libraries are pleased to announce the addition of 1800 full text journal titles to our collections through the UM Libraries Electronic Resources Initiative. This is a system-wide strategic initiative funded by the FY 2005 state appropriations increase along with a match made by the chancellors on each campus. The acquisition of these scholarly journals is critical to the learning, teaching, and research mission of the university and allows the University System to continue its leadership role among public universities.

In addition, the Web of Science database subscription now includes backfiles covering the years 1990 to the present. And funds are in place to add tables of contents to the MERLIN library catalog book records. New books added to the collections will have tables of contents (TOC) in the catalog record, if that TOC is available. This is a valuable search tool that has not been available in recent years due to budget cuts.

Also, the UMSL Libraries recently added Serials Solutions to maintain our digital journal collections. This product provides up-to-date records of full text titles to which we subscribe, produces a combined result list of both our full text and print periodical collections, and allows for easier connection to the full texts of articles found in our databases.

To find out if your favorite journal is available full text, go to the Libraries home page, http://www.umsl.edu/library, and click on “Locate Journal Titles” under the heading “Databases.”

For further information, please contact Chris Dames, cdames@umsl.edu, ext. 6473.