Ward E. Barnes Library is Moving to North Campus!

The Ward E. Barnes Library will close on May 17, 2014, the last day of the Spring Semester. The Barnes Library’s collections in Optometry, Nursing, and Education, including children’s literature and K-12 textbooks, will merge with the broader Thomas Jefferson Library collections. Some lesser used items from both Libraries will be housed in offsite storage. These items will be easily retrievable upon request. In addition, all Barnes Library staff will relocate to the Thomas Jefferson Library. The merger will result in “one stop shopping” for all academic subjects at the Thomas Jefferson Library location. The advantage for Education, Nursing, and Optometry faculty and students will be the broader scope of information resources that the Thomas Jefferson library staff and materials provide. In addition, the Thomas Jefferson Library provides a quiet study floor, group study rooms, laptop checkout for in library use, a café to purchase coffee and snacks, and the extensive historical collections of the Mercantile Library.

Beginning this summer, the combined reference and circulation staff look forward to continuing to meet the diverse information needs of all UMSL students.

Thomas Jefferson Library Research Commons: Things they are a— changin’

During the semester break the Thomas Jefferson Library and ITS coordinated efforts to update the Library Research Commons area. Shelving was moved away from the north windows allowing natural light in and giving unobstructed views of the Quadrangle from the comfortable seating areas. The computer stations were taken apart and spread throughout the area, creating an inviting and open space in which to work. The Computer Lab Assistant’s desk was moved and is now located behind the circular stairwell. Look for the bright orange mobile hanging from the ceiling next to their work area. New computers, paint, and study areas give students an inviting place to gather.

Outlets and USB charging ports were added along the windows for those who want to use personal laptops or to charge their cell phones. The Bookeye Scanner and the photocopier were moved to the wall around the corner from the Reference Desk.

We are very excited about the new changes and hope to bring more updates in the future!
De-mystifying Peer-Review

When your professor requires articles from peer-reviewed journals, what does that mean? In short, it means that the article has been reviewed by experts on the topic before publication. It has been “reviewed” by the author’s peers, and they have offered critique or corrections to the article before being published.

How do you find them? There are a variety of ways to locate peer-reviewed articles. A few are:

1) Using Summon from the Libraries’ homepage, type your topic in the search box and click search. From the left side-bar, select “Limit to articles from peer-reviewed publications”. You may want to limit your search further by checking additional boxes.

2) When accessing any of the 50+ EBSCOHost databases, type your topic in the search box, scroll down to “Limit Your Results”, and check the box for Scholarly (Peer Reviewed) Journals.

3) You can also limit your search in any of the 15 ProQuest databases by checking the box – Search Options: Limit to Peer Reviewed.

For additional information, view these videos from UMSL Libraries’ website – What is Peer-Review?, or stop by the Reference Desk and speak with a librarian.

New Exhibits Open at the Mercantile Library

Three new exhibitions have just opened at the Mercantile Library, located on levels 1 and 2 of the TJ Library Building.

*Most Marvelous Machines* explores steam travel and commerce, and the river and rail industries’ impacts on American life through vintage photographs, historic documents, prints, and artifacts. This two-part exhibition is on view in the Level 2 Atrium and Level 1 Lobby Gallery.

*Whistle Stops: Campaigning by Train* is a focused exhibition that combines collections from the Barriger Railroad Library and the Shopmaker Political Collection to reveal the essential role the railroads played in American presidential campaigns. Going beyond the well-known “Dewey Defeats Truman” photograph, this exhibition explores the many ways the railroad industry both supported and was impacted by American elections. *Whistle Stops* is currently open to view in the Shopmaker Political Gallery.

*From Chouteau to Scharf: The Early Histories of St. Louis* joins the city-wide celebration of the 250th anniversary of the founding of St. Louis. This exhibition provides an in-depth look at the many ways St. Louis’ history has been explored, explained, and expanded through early manuscripts and myriad of rare published histories, with only a handful of surviving copies in the Nation’s libraries. This exhibition is on view in the Lobby Gallery, Level 2.

Downloading E-books for Library Checkout

The UMSL Libraries offer access to a vast number of e-books that can all be viewed online through a web browser. One of our largest collections, the EBSCO eBook collection, contains over 130,000 titles that can also be downloaded and read on an e-book reader, laptop, smartphone, iPad, or other mobile device. Books available in this collection cover many topics including Education, Computer Science, Psychology, Health and Medicine, and many others. Several thousand fiction titles are also included. Complete instructions are available for downloading on the Libraries’ homepage.