Meet the new department heads

The University Libraries have recently filled three vacant administrative positions. Mark Scheu is the new Head of Collection Development. David Owens has been appointed the Head of Technical Services, and William “Zelli” Fischetti is the new Associate Director of the Western Historical Manuscript Collection (WHMC) and University Archives.

Mark Scheu
The Head of Collection Development primarily administers the acquisition of all library materials including books, periodicals, and databases. He also facilitates coordination of the collections of the various libraries on the UM-St. Louis campus.

Mark is looking forward to working closely with the Mercantile Library staff in the process of integrating the collections of the Mercantile and Thomas Jefferson Libraries in the coming years. Mark will still be seen periodically serving at the Reference Desk of the Thomas Jefferson Library where he began his library career in 1980.

David Owens
The Head of Technical Services administers the critical library functions related to cataloging, processing, and accessing books and other materials that come into the library. These activities are among the most technically demanding activities in all of librarianship.

In addition to coordinating all cataloging and processing here, David is also an active participant in some of the same activities for the fifty plus institutions in the MOBIUS Consortium. He is an Adjunct Assistant Professor of Legal Research at Saint Louis University.

David came to the UM-St. Louis Libraries in 1989.

William “Zelli” Fischetti
The Associate Director of the UM-St. Louis branch of the WHMC participates in and oversees the collection, processing, and preservation of primary source materials on the history of St. Louis. Zelli directs these same activities for the University Archives which maintains primary materials on the history of the University. In the community of St. Louis historians, Zelli is considered an expert on St. Louis during the 1960’s, particularly the counter-culture of that era.

Originally from Brooklyn, New York, Zelli moved to St. Louis in 1954. He is a Vietnam combat veteran (1965-66). He has been with UM-St. Louis since January, 1990. A bit of a Renaissance Man, Zelli is restoring a 1950 Ford Custom Deluxe.

What’s on tap at the Mercantile Library

The Mercantile Library will be busy this spring with a wide range of events.

Lunch and Lecture Series

- February 27, Michael C. Gardner, on his new book, Harry Truman and Civil rights: Moral Courage and Political Risks.
- March 15, Dr. Carlos Schwantes continues his “Arambache Travel Series”, In the Footsteps of Lewis and Clark.
- May 2, Professor Steve Rowan, on Baron Ludwig von Raisenstein’s 1853 novel, The Mysteries of New Orleans—a 19th century southern Gothic potboiler written by a German aristocrat.

Special events

- February 28, the Mercantile and the History Department will collaborate for History Day for high school students.

Continuing

- The Woodcock is also a virtual museum at www.umsl.edu/mercantile/woodcock. You can check out this museum (ably maintained by the Thomas Jefferson Reference Librarians) at any time.
- Mercantile Summer Fellowships for scholars in the humanities. This is one of the most successful Mercantile initiatives, and has resulted in both good scholarship and fruitful collegial contacts, so we are excited to once again host another group of Mercantile Fellows.

For more information, give Jim Palmer or Laura Diel a call at x5740 and x7242, or drop by to see them.

James V Palmer
jpalmer@umsl.edu

**Raleigh Muns
muns@umsl.edu**
The Serials Cancellation Project of 2001/02 will be completed by March 1. Virtually all the departments on campus submitted all their lists of titles to be cancelled by mid-December, as requested. It was gratifying and rewarding to experience the degree of understanding and cooperation with which the various disciplines on campus responded. The libraries owe a debt of gratitude to all who participated for enabling this difficult project to be completed smoothly and successfully.

The list of titles submitted by all departments will be posted on the web through February at http://www.umsl.edu/library/deselection/titlesubmitted.html. This will allow each department not only to comprehend the full scope of the project, but also to review the list in detail with an eye to determining if a title on another department’s list, but vital to its own interests, has been submitted for cancellation. In that event a department can have that title transferred to its own list, thereby negating its cancellation. However, it would need to substitute another title from its departmental list of approximately equal annual cost.

Barring any unforeseen circumstances, this project should guarantee that the libraries have enough funds to cover serial expenditures for the next several years. It should also give us a margin of safety so we can better respond to unexpected departmental needs and adjust to changes in the information industry.

Although the cancellation of subscriptions due to a limited budget is never a beneficial measure in itself, the process did generate some positive results. Forced to review their respective list of serials, some departments chose to cancel some subscriptions and substitute other titles to match more closely their faculty’s current needs and interests. Many faculty members are now more aware of the changes in the scholarly communication process and how these changes affect not only the library, but their own work. Communication channels between the library and departments on campus have become more active. Librarians acting as selectors to departments at the university now are more familiar with the departmental liaisons, and vice versa.

The Libraries at the University of Missouri-St. Louis look forward to building on these relationships as we strive to meet the needs of the university in a changing world.

--Mark Scheu
mark_scheu@umsl.edu