Have a question? Chat with us!

Have you found yourself looking for information for an assignment and gotten stuck? Librarians are available to help with your research questions through email, phone, in person, and also via chat. From the Libraries’ homepage, click on the green “Chat Now” button that appears on the right side of the page. This button will only appear when a librarian is there to answer your question. Selecting that button will open a chat box where you can type in your question. You will also see this button on UMSL’s MyGateway Library page when the service is available. If your question is complicated, you may be asked to submit a research consultation request. Ask a Librarian - we’re here to help you with your library and information needs!

Meet IRL: UMSL’s Institutional Repository Library

The Institutional Repository Library (IRL) is a virtual showcase for the UMSL community. IRL, pronounced like the noble title, is the newest digital wing of the UMSL Libraries. You can visit IRL at http://irl.umsl.edu and find out about the history of UMSL.

Did you know before UMSL was UMSL it was UMNRC? The University of Missouri-Normandy Residence Center. You can see what UMSL’s earliest students looked like by exploring the digital pages of school yearbooks. You can find out what classes they took in the collection of UMSL bulletins. You can also find decades of issues from the student newspapers. Our first newspaper was not The Current which began in 1966, it was in fact the Tiger Cub which began in 1960!

Working in cooperation with the graduate office the library is building a new home for the UMSL Dissertation and Thesis Collection in IRL. If you are a graduate student interested in learning how to submit your thesis or dissertation you can read about it in these guidelines:


Do You Need Research Help?

Do you need help finding books, journal articles, or other sources for a research paper or homework assignment? Librarians are here to help! You can stop in and see us at the Public Service Desk or contact us by phone at 314-516-5057. You can also request a research consultation either in-person or via email.
Do you need to find your senators and representatives? Do you need to research the history of a piece of legislation for a class? You can find all this and more by visiting Congress.gov.

Congress.gov is the official web portal for information about U.S. federal legislation. Here you can find information about bills, find out about congressional committees and their members, and search the Congressional Record, which provides the transcripts of the proceedings of both the House and Senate. You can also see a live video feed when the House and Senate is in session and view several in-depth tutorials that explain the legislative process.

You can use the drop down menu on the left at the top of the page to search current and past legislation, look for a specific senator or representative, view congressional reports, the Congressional Record, and much more. For more information, ask a librarian!

Use the Globe-Democrat Collection for your Research

The St. Louis Globe-Democrat Collection at the St. Louis Mercantile Library is a great resource for students, faculty, and staff to use for their coursework and personal research. The collection contains clippings of newspaper articles from the 1920s–1980s covering a range of local, national and international news, and in some cases corresponding photographs. The collection is used by students, historians, genealogists, authors, journalists, and media companies. The newspaper clippings are currently being indexed. You can search for articles by last name and by St. Louis Subject. The newspaper clippings and photographs are available for viewing at the Mercantile Library’s reading room during the reading room’s operating hours. There is also a complete run of the Globe-Democrat on microfilm available for viewing on Level 5 of the Thomas Jefferson Library. You can find more information at the Mercantile Library’s website or by calling 314-516-7244.

New Exhibits at the Mercantile Library

Do you have time between classes or need a break from studying? Visit the Mercantile Library and see their new exhibits opening this semester:


- On display through June 2017, “Presidents and War.” This exhibit examines the role wars have played in political campaigns and presidencies by displaying artifacts such as campaign buttons, political cartoons, newspapers, and posters.

- On display through May 2017, “The Nature of Light: Photographs by Heidi Lopata Sherman.” Visit this exhibit to see the works of photographer Heidi Lopata Sherman.