



Walker Library

# the Atrium

News from James E. Walker Library



## Dean's Message

### The library is where students get work done.

With MTSU focus on student retention and successful attainment of a degree, I have been evaluating the ways Walker Library contributes to student success and the role the library plays in a student's learning experience to make sure we are doing as much as possible.

What do we need to do? Recent research conducted by the Online Computer Library Center (OCLC) with the University of Kansas Library and Baker Library at Harvard sought to measure students' and parent' perceptions in choosing a college and how they associate 17 campus elements with their college experience. (The report, "At a Tipping Point" is available for free download at [www.oclc.org/reports/tipping-point.en.html](http://www.oclc.org/reports/tipping-point.en.html).)

The study revealed that libraries are important in the choice of a college.

Three-quarters or more of parents and students choose a college based on predictable factors of areas of study; affordability; and academic reputation, levels of degrees, financial support, and length of time to get a degree. Access to the physical library and to the library's online collection were important factors to the majority (65 percent) of parents and students.

The study also sought to understand the placement of the library in a student's view of a variety of campus elements including sports activities, coffee shops, support communities, classrooms, fraternities/sororities, residence hall communities, the student union, performing and creative arts, and the library. The library was associated with the elements that brought together individual and academic pursuits and was grouped with classrooms and lecture halls and support communities. The library was singular in the students' view as a place to get work done. Technology access, availability of current and relevant information, and a place to meet with others were recognized as things that enable students to get work done. The role of the library in student success was rated above classrooms and faculty.

Walker is on the right track with student success. We have the technology tools and constantly seek to make simpler what is really difficult. We have added software to make discovery of information across the collections easier. Through campus partnerships, we maintain current technology and experiment with new 3D technologies. We have had a digital media

studio for a few years and add to the available software throughout the building every year.

We have increased access by expanding our hours and creating types of workplaces to meet a variety of needs: quiet or chatty, individual or collaborative. Instruction in finding, evaluating, and using information improves access and learning; we are teaching students in these areas in ever-growing numbers.

Technology tools, a place to work and the information. *Students get work done at Walker Library.*

—Bonnie Allen

### In Spring 2014. . .

- More than 450,000 people used the library's website; about 170,000 were off-campus visitors.
- Over 40,000 items were checked out: books, media, laptops, and equipment.
- More than 17,000 people were assisted with research, media projects, and technology at the help desks.
- 150 library research classes were taught.
- More than 8.7 million pages were printed on library printers.
- More than 400,000 people visited the library. That's almost 25,000 per week!
- Group study, presentation practice, and student meeting rooms were checked out over 6,000 times!

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# Assessing the Collection from Different Perspectives

by Rachel Kirk, Collection Assessment Librarian



Walker Library has always collected traditional statistics such as book circulations, use of group study rooms, and the number of reference questions answered by librarians. This summer we began to expand our assessment practice to include online journals, databases, and electronic books. Because library resources in electronic formats are being used much more easily and regularly by our patrons than our print collection, the library has begun assessing the use of electronic resources.

New challenges emerge in assessing what, why, and how these materials are being used. Faculty and students may not need to walk into the building or ask for help in finding or checking out electronic resources. As a result, librarians no longer get to “see” who is using our collections since electronic books and materials do not have to be checked out at the circulation desk. Instead, we look at what particular journals or book chapters are logged into by patrons. As faculty members and students use an electronic journal or database, that use is recorded as a statistic.

In 2013, Walker Library began systematically obtaining statistical information needed for in-depth analysis of its collections. After compiling a full year’s worth of data, we began reviewing usage. We first analyzed full-text downloads of journal articles from electronic collections as our unit

of measurement. Our assumption was that if an article was not only searched for but actually downloaded, then the user had determined that the article was relevant.

The first assessment of journal article use (based on calendar year 2013) was completed in June 2014. During calendar year 2013, students, faculty, and staff downloaded 938,273 full-text articles. Given the resources spent on electronic journals in calendar year 2013 (\$2,435,687), our overall cost per use of electronic resources averages \$2.60 per full-text article. Additional insights from this analysis include higher use of medical and health titles than we anticipated and lower use than expected of titles acquired to support communication programs. Assimilating these preliminary findings and subsequent comparative analyses helps the library better understand faculty and student research behavior and refine its collection strategy.

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## How to Request Library Purchases

by David Nelson, Chair, Collection Development and Management

The library has assigned librarians as liaisons between each academic department and Walker Library. Librarian liaisons assist faculty in navigating library services and collection acquisition. We encourage you to discuss with your liaison any particular information needs you may have or assistance you may want for class research assignments.

Library collections are constantly changing, and with most of our information assets now electronic, our ability to add and subtract materials is now part of our information ecosystem. New faculty frequently have specific resources needed for their courses and research. If you find that we lack material you need for your class, contact your librarian liaison. The librarian assigned to your department can be found in the Collection Development section of

the library website under About the Library or by contacting me directly.

If you would like to check our holdings for journals that you need for your work, please click on the journal locator link in the search box on the library main page.



When you look at the entry for the journal, be sure to check coverage dates, since with journals there is a complicating factor. Many journals come in database packages. In this case, individual journal titles are often embargoed: that is, the most current issue or volume is not yet available. This means that we need to subscribe individually to that journal. If you discover that a journal of particular



interest has been embargoed, please contact the library liaison assigned to your department.

Contact Information:  
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Liaison List:  
[http://library.mtsu.edu/  
collectionmanagement/  
liaisonprogram/liaisonprogram.php](http://library.mtsu.edu/collectionmanagement/liaisonprogram/liaisonprogram.php)

# Walker Library Launches JEWLScholar!

by Bonnie Allen, Dean

Go to <http://jewlscholar.mtsu.edu/> and you will see Walker Library's latest digital initiative. JEWLScholar is MTSU's first institutional repository (IR). An IR is a digital collection of campus-produced documents and scholarship. It enables us to collect and manage scholarly output that may otherwise be scattered across websites and office computers.

The desire is to increase the visibility of MTSU research through the unrestricted online access and search power the Web. JEWLScholar is organized with publications, college magazines and newsletters, and reports stored by college or department. We have added our complete collection of dissertations in digital form and undergraduate research from Scholars Week.

We will steadily add more content, improve organization, and further develop methods for contributing to JEWLScholar. Library liaisons can answer questions or you may contact Larry Hansard, integrated systems librarian at [Larry.Hansard@mtsu.edu](mailto:Larry.Hansard@mtsu.edu). JEWLScholar is part of Walker Library's digital initiatives collaboration with campus archives.

## Walker Library Co-Sponsors Faculty Learning Community

Jason Vance, associate professor and information literacy librarian, will facilitate a Faculty Learning Community (FLC) on information literacy during the 2014–15 academic year. The FLC will pull together faculty members from across MTSU to examine how their students engage with professional scholarship in their academic disciplines. Topical FLCs are selected each year by the Learning, Teaching, and Innovative Technology Center. A formal call for faculty participation will be made by the center.



## Introducing BrowZine

BrowZine is a convenient bookshelf application geared toward library-subscribed journals. After you download the app (from iTunes or Google) and choose MTSU in the dropdown box, you will be able to select the journals you want on your mobile device. When new issues are published, articles will be immediately available on your device. We think this will be a useful addition to your suite of apps.



**BrowZine**  
Your scholarly journals.  
Now in an amazing  
browsable format.



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**“My favorite thing about the James E. Walker Library is the special collections room.”**

-Brett A. Hudson, Lecturer English

## Fall Events

**Week of Welcome Freshman Party:** *Night of the Walker Dead*, Mon. Sept. 1, 6–9 p.m.

**3D Printer Demos:** Sept. 8–12

**Stephen Wade, Banjo:** Wed., Sept. 24, Noon

**Operation ID:** October, TBA

**Check [mtsu.libcal.com/events](http://mtsu.libcal.com/events) for more info.**

## Trials and Triumphs

A partnership between the Center for Historic Preservation and James E. Walker Library yielded a \$60,000 grant that funded a new digital humanities website about how citizenship has changed over the course of Tennessee history. *Trials and Triumphs: Tennesseans' Search for Citizenship, Community, and Opportunity* is an interactive website containing over 300 primary resources on Tennessee citizenship between the Civil War and World War II.

It contains images, songs, and stories from archives and libraries here at MTSU and from collections in Nashville, Memphis, Knoxville, Chattanooga, the Library of Congress, and Fisk University. Also featured are scholarly essays on themes of education, community building, and popular culture.

Visit <http://digital.mtsu.edu>.

## Advancement Corner

By donating to the Walker Library you support every student on campus. Supporting the library funds technology upgrades, collections (books, journals, e-books, databases), space upgrades, and expert help.

The library accepts monetary donations and gifts of books.

To donate online visit: [www.mtsu.edu/supportlibrary](http://www.mtsu.edu/supportlibrary)

Donate by mail:

**Walker Library, MTSU Box 13  
Murfreesboro, TN 37132**

*(Make checks payable to MTSU Foundation—Walker Library.)*

### Need more info?

Visit [library.mtsu.edu](http://library.mtsu.edu) or contact Kristen at (615) 898-5376 or [kristen.keene@mtsu.edu](mailto:kristen.keene@mtsu.edu).