

James E. Walker



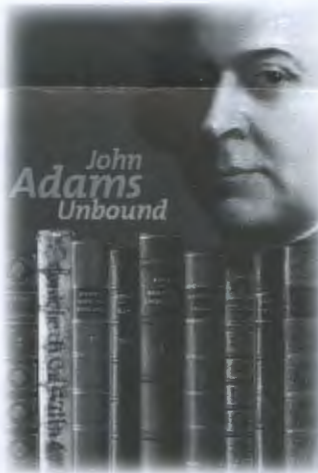
LIBRARY UPDATE

Number 33

Winter 2008

LIBRARY AWARDED NEH GRANT

Walker Library is one of only twenty libraries in the country selected to host an exhibit called *John Adams Unbound*, a collaboration involving the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), Boston Public Library, and the American Library Association (ALA).



NEH for exhibit-related costs. The library will offer two free public programs featuring a lecture from a scholar on the theme of the exhibition. The tour schedule and dates will be announced shortly.

John Adams Unbound explores Adams's personal library—a collection of 3,500 books willed by Adams to the people of Massachusetts and deposited in Boston Public Library in 1894.

The collection of books provides insight into how John Adams shaped American history and how he was shaped through his lifelong dedication to reading and books.

Through photo-reproductions of these annotated volumes, students and faculty members will encounter one of our founding fathers wrestling with intellectual and political ideas at every stage in his long life—as a boy, university student, Boston lawyer, revolutionary, diplomat, U.S. President, and citizen of the early American republic.

The library will host the 1,000-square-foot exhibit for six weeks and receive a \$2,500 grant from the

people of Massachusetts and deposited in Boston Public Library in 1894.

DO YOUR STUDENTS DO GOOD RESEARCH?

Do your students reference quality sources in their writing and research? Do they cite things responsibly? Faculty members across campus are recognizing that their students need help with basic research skills, and they are turning to the library for help.

The library has seen a rise in the number of classes requesting formal library orientation and instruction. The library faculty taught basic library orientation and advanced research skills to 150 classes during the fall 2008 semester (that's roughly 2,700 students). Those served ranged from students in University 1010, English, and communication courses to students taking history, biology, and other classes. Even though library instruction is up from 100 sessions last fall, the

students in those classes still represent only 11 percent of the MTSU student population.

Interested in bringing your classes to the library? MTSU librarians offer customized instruction for research-based assignments in one of the library's two electronic master classrooms. Librarians are available to consult with faculty members to develop unique and interactive assignments that are relevant to specific classes, assignments, and learning outcomes.

Contact Kristen West (kwest@mtsu.edu) or Jason Vance (jvance@mtsu.edu) to learn how the library can help your students become better writers and researchers.

ADVANCEMENT CORNER

Honor a faculty member.

A professor in Liberal Arts asked what he could do to honor the recent passing of a colleague who loved books. His answer was the library's Book Honor Program. With a donation to this program, a book is purchased for the collection and special bookplates are added with the honoree's and donor's names.

The Book Honor Program allows family members and friends to honor a faculty member and, at the same time, enhance resources in the library for everyone. If you would like to make a donation, please contact Kristen Keene, 898-5376 or kkeene@mtsu.edu.

MIDDLE TENNESSEE

STATE UNIVERSITY

James E. Walker Library

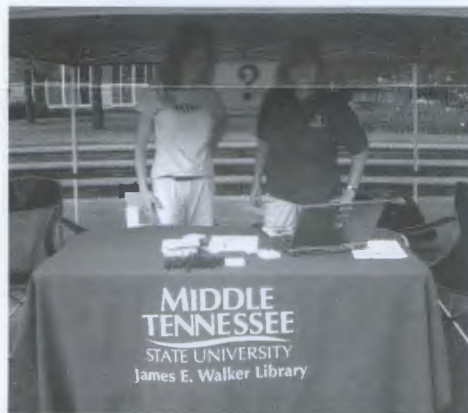
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"I cannot live without books."

*— Thomas Jefferson,
in a letter to John Adams (June 10, 1815)*

QUESTION TENT

The library hosted a question tent in conjunction with the New Student and Family Programs Office August 25–26. The tent was set up in the quadrangle between Walker Library, Bragg Mass Communication and the Business and Aerospace Building. Librarians staffed the tent to help students on the first couple of days of the fall semester. Armed with maps, pens, and laptops, librarians helped students with a variety of questions from "Where do I get a student ID?" to "Where is the BDA building?" to "Does the library have people to help me with my research?"



CONSTITUTION DAY

Over 200 students came by Walker Library on Wednesday, September 17, to "pull the bar" and print copies of the preamble to the U.S. Constitution

on the library's 18th-century reproduction printing press. The event was cosponsored by the American Democracy Project. Donations from students covered the cost of supplies.



VOTER REGISTRATION DRIVE

On Wednesday and Thursday, September 24 and 25, James E. Walker Library hosted a voter registration drive cosponsored by the American Democracy Project. A table was located under the portico, directly outside the library main entrance. Almost 200 students registered to vote for the first time or updated their voter registrations. Volunteers assisted students in filling out Tennessee voter registration

forms, answered questions about requirements, and mailed the forms to the registrants' county election commissions.

ARTIST IN THE LIBRARY

Los Angeles-based artist Tucker Neel worked on the replica 18th-century printing press in James E. Walker Library. Neel also presented a lecture and slide presentation to over 60 MTSU students and faculty members in the library conference room. Neel's work from the printing press formed part of an exhibition at Snow Gallery in Nashville.



BANNED BOOKS WEEK

The library celebrated banned books week September 27–October 4 with a display of forty of the most challenged books of all time. Students and faculty members were invited to check out books from the display. Observed since 1982, this annual American Library Association event reminds Americans not to take for granted the freedom to read.