Walker Library

Dean’s Message

I love the start of a new year! The excitement of a fresh start and new experiences infuses orientation and welcome activities. For some, this excitement is mixed with a bit of anxiety about meeting expectations in the coming weeks and months. To welcome students and reduce some of that anxiety, students can visit Walker Library’s Question Tent. On the first two days of classes, you will see a blue awning out in the quad, with library staff handing out maps, giving directions, and answering questions. Sometimes just a friendly welcome makes a difference in a student’s first impression of MTSU. With the start of classes comes orientation season. The library conducts orientation for new graduate students, international students, and new student employees. We also play a part in new faculty orientation. The past two falls, we have been pleased to host President McPhee in the library for his meeting with new faculty before the library sessions for faculty to help them with their classes. The underlying message in our welcome events and orientations is that the library is a partner for faculty and students and is ready to help.

The library’s responsibility in these partnerships is devotion to evaluation and improvement of collections, services, and instruction to best fit changing needs. As this issue of The Atrium recounts, we have acquired new resources, and we are moving into the first phase of a revised website, offering a journal hosting, and continuing a robust instruction program to better prepare students for college-level work. Walker Library continues to evolve with changing methods of accessing information and providing services and learning spaces to support students. I invite you to take advantage of the library instruction program by scheduling a session to introduce your students to college-level research at a general or topic-specific level. We provide a range of instruction aimed to prepare students for research and to maximize the learning experience of assignments with the effective use of our collections (going beyond Google). Librarians offer topic- and subject-specific guidance for classes and a research coach for one-on-one consultation.

Our development of digital collections has become the Digital Scholarship Lab (DSL). The DSL focuses on MTSU-produced scholarship in digital format and is coordinated by Prof. Miller. This lab is the center for our collaboration with all archives at MTSU and is the center that to supports individual researchers in digital publishing. We just completed our first year of JEWLScholar, a digital archive, and are now offering journal hosting. (See the article in this issue). This service provides infrastructure and technical support for open-access journals edited or produced by MTSU faculty members and departments. With a site license for GIS, we are excited by the possibility of increasing the use of this technology in our projects.

Plan to attend a resource showcase Sept. 8 to the wealth of resources in our collections. We seek faculty involvement through the library liaison program to acquire the best in print and digital scholarship, all to help students. I think you will be surprised by the breath of our collections. We have introduced new modes of access such as Kanopy, a streaming video collection now available that lets students watch documentaries on their own time, and supports the “flipped classroom” method which incorporates video and traditional classroom instruction. We also have a listening space behind the reference desk for students who want to explore the music collection on vinyl. Not all things are digital.

Over the last three years, Walker Library has been hiring expert professionals who are helping students prepare for professional careers themselves. With a range of digital initiatives in place, we now focus on improving everyone’s experience in both the virtual and the physical library. This approach shaped not just the redesign of our website but also the implementation of technologies used to discover materials for research and a complete rewriting of our collection policy. We are also looking closely at policies for the use of library space, and we’re refreshing furnishings to make the library more comfortable and conducive to study and research. In all these processes include the robust data warehouse of library transactions with users so that we know what our patrons need and expect to find.
Journal Hosting at Walker Library
by Professor Miller, Digital Scholarship Librarian

Walker Library now offers free journal hosting services to members of the Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU) community. All of the journals we service are digital and open access—free to read online. Walker Library established this journal hosting program to meet the needs and support the mission, values and vision of the university.

Scholarly journals vary by size, content and mission. Walker Library provides journal editors with the technical infrastructure to publish journals on their choice of two platforms:

1. JEWL Scholar
MTSU’s institutional repository, will make journals visible to a global audience and assures long-term preservation. This option is appropriate for journals that do not need editorial software for workflow procedures, but want permanent, open access and dependable archiving of the journal content.

2. Journals@MTSU
MTSU’s Open Access Journals, uses the Open Journal System (OJS) software to not only make journals visible while assuring its preservation, but also supports the entire editorial management workflow (article submission, peer-review, editing, indexing). This option is for journals that have a stable editorial team and usually publish scholarly content on a regular basis.

To learn more about open access journal publishing or to sign up, please visit our guide at libraryguides.mtsu.edu/journals and fill out the form.

These Digital Scholarship services are offered by Walker Library and administered by the Digital Scholarship Initiatives. For more information, contact digitalscholar@mtsu.edu.

To learn more about journal hosting possibilities or to browse a current journal, visit http://libjournals.mtsu.edu.

New Library Website
by Amy York, Web Librarian

Look for changes on our website this fall. We’ve updated the look and made our most popular resources and services easier to find.

The library also continues to improve the functionality of our search tools. We continue to offer JEWL Search, our one stop discovery tool for books, articles, media, and more, and we’ve made changes to our classic catalog to make it easier to browse and search the library’s physical collection.

Questions? Contact Amy York at amy.york@mtsu.edu

library.mtsu.edu

LAST SEMESTER IN THE LIBRARY

- More than 1.1 million people used the library’s website!!!
- Over 37,000 books, media, laptops, and equipment were checked out in the Library.
- More than 21,000 people were assisted with research, media projects and technology at the library help desks.
- 177 library research classes were taught.
- Over 92,000 searches were performed using the Library catalog!
- Over 368,000 people visited the library Spring semester. That’s over 23,000 people per week!!
- Group study, presentation practice, and student meeting rooms were checked out over 7300 times!
Librarians are devoted to helping users find answers, improve research, and locate materials. They are experts in knowledge management. They answer almost 10,000 questions each semester from students, faculty and staff at the reference desk, over the phone, and via email and chat.

But did you know that the Walker Library offers formal instruction sessions in the resources, services and organization of the Library for MTSU faculty in the classes they teach?

Walker Library Reference Librarians teach over 175 classes each semester. These classes range from general how to use the library, its website, performing meaningful searches, citing sources, copyright, etc. all the way to customized library instruction classes on specific subjects to particular resources.

The Walker Library also offers a one-on-one research help service called Research Coach for students and faculty.

For more information on all of our instruction services please contact Gwen Williams at gwen.williams@mtsu.edu or call (615) 904-8530.

---

**Statista** - One of the first statistic portals in the world to integrate data on over 80,000 topics from over 18,000 sources onto a single professional platform. Categorized into 21 market sectors, Statista.com provides companies, business customers, research institutions, and the academic community with direct access to quantitative data on media, business, finance, politics, and a wide variety of other areas of interest or markets.

**Kanopy** - Browse and watch any of over 26,000 streaming films, documentaries and training videos from PBS, Criterion Collection, and other leading producers. Easily create clips or teaching playlists. Closed captioning available on request.

“...completely captivated by Kanopy and all the resources that are there for this course (MUS 1030)!” – Angela Tipps, MTSU School of Music.

---

For these and other new resources go to: [http://libraryguides.mtsu.edu/new](http://libraryguides.mtsu.edu/new)
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

Donate by mail:
Walker Library, MTSU Box 13
Murfreesboro, TN 37132
(Make checks payable to the MTSU Foundation—Walker Library.)

Need more info?
Visit library.mtsu.edu or contact Kristen at 615-898-5376 by email kristen.keene@mtsu.edu.