This month I had the privilege of speaking to a group of first semester library school students who are beginning their quest towards a Master of Library Science degree at Emporia State University, my alma mater. I was given 15 minutes to talk about my library career journey that took me from booksale coordinator at the Johnson County (Kan.) public library to state librarian.

Preparing for this, I reflected on the fact that I’ve worked in a lot of different library settings; from school media specialist, law library, children’s and adult services, director and finally state librarian. All of these jobs prepared me for where I am today, but I don’t think we can underestimate how “real life” experiences plays a big part in our profession. Straight out of college, I worked as a campaign manager for a state representative candidate. From that, I learned how to think from the other side of the table. I learned what a board needs from their administrator—unbiased information and a leadership philosophy that values respect. Even my experience as a mother, caregiver for a terminally ill parent and partner have shaped how I think about information gathering, compromise, humility and treating people with dignity. ALL of these have been critical to how I approach my career.

While having the degree and championing the idea that our libraries are the most trusted and democratic institutions in our country helped me along the way, I can’t underestimate how all of my non-library roles have shaped me professionally.

In more like 25 minutes, I remarked to the class that to be prepared academically is only a small part of what it takes to be a library professional. Being a sympathetic, curious, graceful human being will go a long way toward making you a success in this field. To you, my friends and colleagues, keep doing the great things that you do. We are part of social infrastructure that is critical to our communities and patrons. I am proud to see students still excited to enter our profession. That means we are all doing something right. Our humanity is showing and that is what sets us apart.
Missouri State Library News

New Public Services Manager for Wolfner Library Named
Amanda McConnell will become public services manager for Wolfner Library beginning March 1. McConnell, a Columbia, Mo. native, has spent the last 10 years at the Lawrence (Kan.) Public Library, most recently as their public services manager.

The Public Services Manager is responsible for developing and maintaining Wolfner’s library collection is various formats and for helping to publicize Wolfner’s services.

Legislative Session
The 100th Session of the Missouri Legislature began on Jan. 9, 2019. For information about elected officials, legislation or hearings, visit http://www.moga.mo.gov/.

Rhythm & Tunes Early Literacy Skills Videos
St. Louis County Library has produced a series of short videos called Rhythm & Tunes featuring story time staff performing songs and finger plays. Sixteen new Rhythm & Tunes videos are now available on SLCL’s You Tube page. These short videos teach a variety of fine and gross motor skills, as well as vocabulary and early literacy skills. The videos were funded in part with a federal grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, under the Library Services and Technology Act, as administered by the Missouri State Library, a division of the Office of the Secretary of State.

Blue Books Available for Purchase
The 2017-2018 Official Manual of the State of Missouri, commonly known as the "Blue Book", is now available for purchase. Anyone interested in ordering a Blue Book can download an order form by visiting www.MoBlueBook.com or call (573) 751-1880 to receive a form by mail.

While the manual has been available online since January of last year, funding for the book’s printing was first made available in July through HB 12. The Blue Book Printing Fund was established to accept payment for Official Manual orders, provided they are sold at cost. That cost is $15 per book, plus shipping costs.

The manual, which the Secretary of State’s Office publishes every two years dating back to 1878, is a wealth of information on Missouri government. It includes the latest contact information for government officials and departments, biographies of elected officials, information on the state’s laws and salaries of government employees.

Completed order forms should be mailed with payment to the Secretary of State’s Publications Division, PO Box 1767, Jefferson City, MO 65102.
Public Library Annual Reports
Public libraries are highly encouraged—and sometimes statutorily required—to submit annual reports to the Missouri State Library stating the condition of the library and its services within four months of the end of the library’s fiscal year. These reports are used to help track library trends and can impact the continuing education and grant programs offered by the Missouri State Library. There is no specific format required. Check out reports from Saint Joseph Public Library and Polk County Library to get a sense of just how different the styles can be.

Updated Collection in Missouri Digital Heritage
New material from the Missouri State Archives is now available through Missouri Digital Heritage.

Over 1,900 images have been added to the Gerald Massie Photograph Collection. This collection, originally added to Missouri Digital Heritage in 2017, contains thousands of images of scenic views of Missouri, cityscapes, portraits, agricultural scenes and more. Massie, Missouri’s first state photographer, worked for the state from 1945 through 1974, documenting the state through photography in publishing and administrative roles. The collection was donated to the Missouri State Archives by Massie’s wife and daughter in 1991.

Explore more Missouri history collections at http://www.MissouriDigitalHeritage.com. Institutions wishing to participate in Missouri Digital Heritage may contact mdh@sos.mo.gov.

Vroom: 1,000 Free Early Learning Tips for Parents and Caregivers
Bring Vroom tips into your learning community and get families excited about brain building. This resource is free and will help children age 5 and under learn and develop. Show parents how they can use fast, free Vroom tips to nurture their child’s learning and become brain-building heroes. It’s available in Spanish or English and includes an app (Apple or Android) that will notify participants when a new daily tip arrives. Parents and caregivers can individualize tabs for each of their children, based on age, to ensure they get appropriate tips for the developmental age of each child. You can also track your favorite activities, share to social media, add pictures of your child completing the activities, and more. Vroom will track how many activities caregivers complete with each children, which makes it a fun and easy way for adults to participate in and boost learning for children.
Get to Know the Reference Services Division

The Reference Services division of the Missouri State Library provides library services to Missouri state employees and the General Assembly. We also support the professional development of public library directors, branch managers and staff by providing the Library Professional Development Collection.

Patrons and Missouri library staff are encouraged to contact Reference Services with questions, especially about Missouri government information. We are here to help you find Missouri government documents, statistics, contacts and much more.

With the redesigned Show Me Express, we would love to hear from you! From where to find Missouri Census data to the Governor’s Executive Orders, there is a wealth of Missouri government information to share and we are asking for your input on what type of content and information you would like from us. Please send your comments, ideas and suggestions!

Phone: (573) 751-4552
Email: libref@sos.mo.gov
Virtual Chat: https://mostate.libguides.com

Around the State

Library News

After being closed for four months due to leaking caused by foundation issues, the community room and several offices have been reopened at the Carthage Public Library. A private grant paid 50 percent of the renovation costs and the 120-year-old partial Carnegie Library is now fully functional.

Three new exhibits are on display at the Poplar Bluff Public Library.

Library Artifacts, January 2019—From the library archives, we are displaying the stereographs (the original virtual reality) which graced the library’s reading tables for many years. The original accession book is displayed along with one of the first books added to the library. The patron register reveals names reflecting descendants still living in Poplar Bluff. With this exhibit are cards and finding tools used with the wooden card catalog which are now considered relics of a bygone era. In addition, there is a tribute to past library founders and directors.

Mingo Wildlife Refuge Photography Contest Exhibit, January 2019—Photographs representing: Mingo Landscapes, People in Nature, Native Wildlife, and Native Plants of Southeast Missouri. This is the fourth year the Library has hosted this exhibit. It is ever popular and representative of the talent of people across all ages.

Hemingway Traveling Exhibit, February and March 2019—This is the first year the library has hosted this exhibit. Display pieces and five panels bring an understanding of the regional, national and global history of the 1920s and 1930s eras by focusing on the internationally connected Pfeiffer family of Piggott, Arkansas, and their son-in-law, and regular guest, Ernest
Hemingway. This exhibit includes photos drawing on Hemingway’s influence as a noted American author fostering interest in literature and the arts and promoting excellence in both.

**Trails Regional Library** has received two grants to promote the arts during its 2019 Summer Reading Program.

The Mid-America Arts Alliance (M-AAA) Regional Touring Program will bring award-winning children’s performers Mömandpöp to all eight of Trails Regional Library’s branches May 29-31, 2019. Trails Regional Library will also be involved in outreach activities ahead of the performances throughout Johnson and Lafayette counties. Funding for Trails Regional Library’s M-AAA grant is drawn from generous underwriting by the National Endowment for the Arts, Missouri Arts Council, and foundations, corporations and individuals throughout Arkansas, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, Oklahoma and Texas.

**Trails** was also awarded a Missouri Arts Council (MAC) Community Touring Performer grant to bring Kansas City-based Mesner Puppet Theatre’s production A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Deathstar to four of its branches in Concordia, Lexington, Odessa, and Warrensburg. The shows will be held June 26-27, 2019. Financial assistance for this project has been provided by the Missouri Arts Council, a state agency.

**Joplin Public Library** Director Jacque Gage will be leaving JPL to return to Ozark Christian College, where she obtained her undergraduate degree. Jacque will become the access services librarian.

**New Library Directors**

**Lorette Smith** was named the new director of Texas County Library in October 2018. Previously, Lorette was the children’s program manager at the Houston branch. Lorette replaces **Molly Shelton**, who is currently serving as interim director of the Willow Springs Public Library.

Desloge Public Library named **Misty Boyer** as its new director in November 2018. Misty was previously the library’s assistant director and replaces **Jill Kaufman**.

**Valley Park Community Library** has named **Pamela Kettler** as its new director, replacing **Bonnie Morris** who retired in December 2018.

The new Marion County Library Director is **Stephanie Harrington**. Stephanie previously served as director of the Patmos Library in Michigan and is returning to her Missouri roots. She replaces **Peggy Northcraft** who retired in December 2018.

**Mid-Continent Public Library Upgrades Branches as Capital Plan Continues**

As part of Mid-Continent Public Library’s five-year Capital Improvement Plan, which launched in spring 2018, nine Library branches have been renovated to date (Antioch, Blue Springs South, Camden Point, Dearborn, Excelsior Springs, Lone Jack, Oak Grove, Platte City and Weston), and several others are currently closed for construction (Edgerton, Kearney and Claycomo).

The Library also recently purchased a six-acre property in Liberty, Mo., on the east side of Withers Road near the Liberty Community Center, which will serve as the new location for the replacement of the Liberty Branch.
Construction is tentatively scheduled to begin in late 2019. In addition, this spring, MCPL will begin renovating a building within the Red Bridge Shopping Center in Kansas City, which will become the new home of its Red Bridge Branch.

While the upgrades at each branch have varied based on community needs and building conditions, the Library has focused on creating more intentional spaces and upgrading essential technology throughout. In particular, many of the renovated branches now offer devoted areas for children and teens as well as enclosed programming and meeting rooms that can be used by the Library or reserved by customers. Design work for the five-year Capital Plan is being completed by Sapp Design Architects and Helix Architecture + Design with JE Dunn assuming responsibility for construction contractor management.

Following the reopening of each renovated branch, MCPL has held ribbon-cutting ceremonies with local elected officials and Library leadership as well as open house events for the public with live entertainment, refreshments and a mobile scavenger hunt through the free GooseChase app. In addition, at both the ribbon-cutting events and open houses, Library staff are giving away special commemorative tokens (one per person) that can be used one time to clear all Library fines and fees up to $10.

Along with upgrading each of its 31 existing branches, the Library will add two new locations by 2022. One of these new branches will be a 18,500-square-foot branch located in Lee’s Summit at Blue Parkway and Battery Road just east of Todd George Road (just north of 50 Highway). The Library purchased a piece of land for this purpose in fall 2018. The second new location will be added in Independence, bringing MCPL’s total number of branches to 33.

MCPL’s Capital Improvement Plan was made possible by the passage of Proposition L by voters in November 2016, which gave the Library its first increase in funding in 33 years. In addition to upgrading its facilities, Prop L has allowed the Library to expand branch hours, enhance special services, augment early literacy efforts and buy more materials.

To get the latest information regarding MCPL's Capital Improvement Plan, visit mymcpl.org/Community.
School Library News

The Missouri Association of School Librarians (MASL) is sponsoring a Readers Award Book Trailer Contest. All Missouri students are invited to create book trailers for any of the final nominees for the 2019-20 Mark Twain, Truman or Gateway Readers Awards. Submissions are due by 11:59 PM on March 8th, 2019. For more information, visit: https://maslonline.org/book-trailer-contest/.

Missouri Library Association

MLA Youth Services UnConference will be held on April 10, 2019, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Registration cost is FREE for MLA members, with a $10 lunch fee for non-MLA members. An unconference is a series of workshops led by YOU, the attendees. Those participating in the unconference suggest topics of interest, and attendees then vote on their favorite topics. The following workshops are discussions among the attendees on those topics. The Youth Services UnConference is a flexible, personable way to focus on topics that matter to you and your libraries. You will also get to meet awesome librarians, exchange knowledge and have fun! Register here.

Call for Articles

In our LSTA Grant Awardee Spotlight, we will be featuring a program or service a library created or enhanced because of LSTA funding. Our goals are to highlight the great things grant funding has helped you do in your library and community AND to give you fellow library leaders ideas for projects they could try in their community. Furthermore, we are adding an Around the State section, which will feature updates from YOU about happenings at your library. This could include grand openings, new programs, staff retirements or hires, etc. Think about those announcements that you want to shout from the rooftops and let Show Me Express be your vehicle for broadcasting that information.

Requests for information for the LSTA Grant Awardee Spotlight and Around the State sections will be ongoing and can be emailed to the State Library at mostlib@sos.mo.gov.

We are excited to add sections to Show Me Express that showcase Missouri’s libraries and all the great things you do. For questions or comments, contact us at mostlib@sos.mo.gov or (800) 325-0131.

MASL launches “Checked In” Podcast Series. The podcast discusses issues and trends within school libraries from the perspective of librarians from across the state. Podcasts will be available for download at www.maslonline.org.
Continuing Education Opportunities from the State Library

Science and Math in Storytimes on Thursday, Feb. 7, 2019, from 3:00-4:00 p.m.
For youth services staff in public libraries of all types, sizes, and budgets, Heather Thompson and Heather Love Beverly will provide information on easy, fun ways to add science and math concepts into storytime sessions to positively impact early learning. The presenters will discuss the value of science and math in storytime, as well as provide examples of simple ways to include age appropriate science and math concepts in preschool programs. Register online at Science and Math in Storytimes. Please direct questions to Becky Wilson, Public Library Services Consultant, at (573) 522-9564 or becky.wilson@sos.mo.gov.

Grant Opportunities

Author Visit Grant • DEADLINE: Ongoing
This grant is specifically designed for school or public libraries to bring an author to their community. Grants range from $500 up to $5,000. All travel for the author must be included as part of a flat rate fee for the author. Other additional costs allowable: publicity and promotional items, up to $500 towards library materials for collection development related to the project, additional staff hours, and transportation for youth from school or licensed child care. Questions? Contact Debbie Musselman, Library Director, at (573) 751-2679 or debbie.musselman@sos.mo.gov.

Show Me Steps to Continuing Education: Individual Training Events • DEADLINE: Ongoing
Is there an upcoming conference, workshop, seminar or course you’d like to attend? This grant is a competitive grant program for Missouri Library personnel to participate in training opportunities when local funds cannot cover the entire cost. Grants range from $500 to $2,500, with a minimum local match of 25 percent. Eligible activities: regional, state and national workshops, pre-conferences, conferences, seminars or other development programs offered by professional associations or other appropriate entities; a community college class having direct application to the improvement of the applicant library’s operations or service; web-based instructional courses; and technical or other specialized CE events led by a qualified consultant or trainer. Questions? Contact Lisa Stock, Adult Services Consultant, at (573) 526-1087 or lisa.stock@sos.mo.gov.

Show Me Steps to Continuing Education: Group Training Events • DEADLINE: Ongoing
Do you want to bring an expert to your library for training? This grant is a competitive grant program that provides funds for a host library or library consortium to plan and provide group training(s) on current, relevant, unique and/or in-demand topics at a local, regional or statewide level. Grants range from $500 up to $8,000. Eligible activities: Technical or specialized CE events led by a qualified consultant or trainer, and reserving a set number of seats for in-state attendees to participate in web-based instructional courses. Questions? Contact Lisa Stock, Adult Services Consultant, at (573) 526-1087 or lisa.stock@sos.mo.gov.