

SHOW ME EXPRESS

State Library Newsletter

July 2025



Denny Hoskins, CPA
Missouri Secretary of State



State Librarian Message

"Salutations!" Says State Librarian Janet Caruthers

Winter and spring leave us behind, and the heat of summer has arrived. My favorite spring flowers faded away to be replaced with summer fruits and veggies, and critters come out for their summer adventures. Each creature I pass outside reminds me of the beloved stories of Charlotte and Wilbur, Stuart Little, Mr. Toad, and more. These characters have humble beginnings and grand adventures. They have always kept me searching for animals around me, a summer adventure of my own, to help them on their journeys.

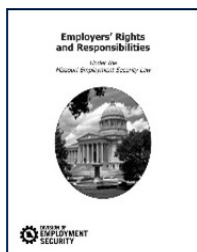
Each spring and summer, I especially come across turtles on my way to and from work. I share those glimpses with others, and staff have begun to keep count of each turtle. For anyone curious, the current tally is six. Now, we all share

our turtle sightings along with other creatures we come across. I've heard of a frog floating around a pool like a lazy river, foxes and her kits resting under a neighbor's porch, and solitary herons gliding over lakes and rivers. The other day, I spotted nibbles taken out of my strawberries and wondered if perhaps a turtle stopped by for a quick bite before moving to bask on a sunny log.

Let's take some notes from nature's many stories: savor the little joys of summertime and help our neighbors no matter how great or small. So, trade stories around a campfire with s'mores, listen to the cicadas chirping in the trees, help a turtle safely cross the road, and enjoy a good book outside in the warm summer breeze.

State Library News

Featured Government Document from the State Library



The [Employers' Rights and Responsibilities](#) handbook published by the Division of Employment Security of the Missouri Department of Labor and Industrial Relations provides general information and guidance under state law. Discover more government publications in our [Missouri State Publications Collection](#) to share with patrons. For assistance accessing government information or publications, please contact Reference Services at the [State Library](#).



Meet Our Interns!

This summer, the Missouri State Library has two interns learning and working in the wonderful world of libraries here in our offices. Cami is interning with all three of our divisions, and Maggie is interning with Reference Services. We're excited to have them join us and share a little bit about them below:

Cami

1. What projects are you helping the State Library with this summer?

I've been helping Reference with inventory this summer. I go through sections of books and scan the barcodes which then get added to the database. I've also been working with Wolfner making calls to patrons!

2. What do you enjoy most about libraries?

It may be cliché, but my favorite part about libraries is the books! Looking through shelves is so interesting because there's so many books on topics I would have never thought of. I've never been a huge non-fiction reader, but working here has inspired me to pick some up.

3. What's something surprising you've learned so far?

I was surprised to find out that every state in the US has a talking book and braille library program.

4. What is one of your favorite books and why?

My favorite book of all time is *Never Let Me Go* by Kazuo Ishiguro. It's a really sad book, but it's a very beautiful story about the importance of human connection and making the most out of life. I could read this book over and over again because there's so many small details you only notice once you've read it over.

Maggie

1. What projects are you helping the State Library with this summer?

My main project that I am tasked with is scanning and organizing permanent files for several public libraries across the state. Other things that I help with are researching historical article topics for Behind the Stacks, making sure that the Library's website is up to date, creating posters for display in the Library and re-shelving books.

2. What do you enjoy most about libraries?

What I enjoy most about libraries is their mission of organizing and giving out resources to the public in order to assist in a greater understanding of the world around us. Helping people and maintaining accessibility are two things that I am super passionate about, so naturally I love working in libraries!

3. What's something surprising you've learned so far?

One thing that surprised me was the vastness of Wolfner. I have lived in Missouri all of my life, and I didn't realize that we had a huge library of resources for people with disabilities that affect their ability to read. It is such a great resource, and I had no idea!

4. What is one of your favorite books and why?

If I only had to pick one, I would have to choose *The Picture of Dorian Gray* by Oscar Wilde because I love to read classics, especially Gothic works. I enjoy looking for metaphors and symbolism, and this book is full of them and can be interpreted in so many different ways!

Sign Your Patrons Up for Wolfner Talking Book & Braille Library Services

As a librarian, there are plenty of ways you can help your patrons and community members apply for Wolfner Talking Book and Braille Library services. Not only can you help community members who are unable to use standard print materials due to blindness, visual or physical impairment or a reading disability fill out and submit their [Wolfner Talking Book and Braille Library applications](#), you can be a certifying authority for their eligibility.

Lynne Haynes, the home borrowing and outreach coordinator for Kirkwood Public Library, has signed many patrons up for Wolfner services over the past five years:

So many times, I hear patrons complain about how they used to love to read but it is too difficult to read now that their vision has gotten worse. I always take the opportunity to tell them about the fabulous service that Wolfner library offers. I mention the outstanding service and how incredibly helpful and friendly the librarians are there.

I love to get feedback from them about how many books they have read and what a difference Wolfner library makes in their lives. A few people talk about it as a life saver to make them feel connected. I am incredibly thankful for this service and the ability to offer it to those in the community who need it!

Add your Library Name to TeachingBooks

All state-aid eligible public libraries in Missouri should have a site-specific link to TeachingBooks for Libraries on their library website. This allows patrons to see your library name when they access TeachingBooks for Libraries via your website.

Don't have a link to TeachingBooks for Libraries on your website? Or don't see your library name? Contact Katie Dunne, the Missouri State Library Youth Services Consultant, at (573) 522-9564 or katie.dunne@sos.mo.gov for help accessing your site-specific link.



You can help patrons start or continue their love of reading by expanding their access to braille, audio, and large print literature.

Every library and branch can receive Wolfner material, paper applications and a demonstration talking book player to show their patrons. Contact Jami Livingston today at (573) 522-2768 or jami.livingston@sos.mo.gov!

Sample site-specific link to TeachingBooks for Libraries



This project is supported by the Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act as administered by the Missouri State Library, a division of the Office of the Secretary of State. Use the link www.facebook.com/USIMLS for Facebook posts in lieu of the statement.



Reference Services for YOU: Out and About in Our State Parks

Missouri State Parks and historic sites provide patrons with an array of summer trip options, from short outings to vacation getaways throughout Missouri.

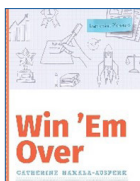
- [State Park Camping Reservations](#): Patrons can reserve campsites online or by phone after checking the [camping directory](#) to view available campsite equipment and services. Reservations for camping aren't required but recommended and can be made either the same day or up to 12 months in advance. The [Status Viewer map](#) enables patrons to check for openings and closures at state parks and historic sites.
- [Lodging](#): If patrons are looking for opportunities for outdoor activities but don't enjoy camping, 16 parks offer lodging facilities, including cabins, yurts and even lake houses. [Find Your Park](#) can help narrow down sites by lodging, region and activity.
- [Activities](#): Patrons can find plenty of exciting [upcoming events](#) to sign up for, including summer concerts and movies in the park as

well as programs for guided bison saunters, basket weaving classes, dark sky events and wild spa nights. Patrons can also make reservations for guided [tours](#) of caves, historical sites and more.

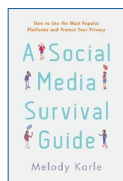
- [Missouri State Park Rewards](#): Visitors can enroll in the customer rewards program to earn points toward future discounts. Patrons who camp in five different state parks or historic sites during the year may be eligible for a Missouri Camper Award!
- [Recreation](#): Search "Missouri" to find even more trip-planning resources from 14 federal participating partners. Listings for camping, day use, tours and rental equipment are available, along with travel guides, tips and recommendations.

Questions? Contact Reference Services at (573) 751-3615, libref@sos.mo.gov or mostate.libguides.com.

Featured Books from the State Library



[Win 'Em Over](#)



[A Social Media Survival Guide](#)



[Constructing Library Buildings That Work](#)



[Supervision and Management](#)

Discover more of our new Library Professional Development titles as well as recorded webinars, government publications and more on the [Missouri Library Staff Guide](#).

Directors and branch managers can sign up for a State Library card from the guide and are encouraged to borrow items for themselves or any of their library's staff. State Library books are also available for borrowing through both MOBIUS and WorldShare.

For assistance placing holds, requesting or replacing a card or for additional information, please contact Reference Services by phone, email or chat. We are available Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and are always happy to help!



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Around the State

Welcome to New Library Director

Please join us in welcoming a new library director!

- **Lisa Irvine**, Director of Marion County Library, director@marioncolib.org

We are excited to see all the wonderful things Lisa will accomplish in this role. If you'd like to congratulate her or reach out, you can find her email above.

If you're a new library director, please reach out to mostlib@sos.mo.gov to receive an official welcome and information from the State Library to help you thrive in your new position.



A Jam-Packed Week of Summer Reading Fun at Worth County Library

By Worth County Library

The Worth County Library located in Grant City held our Summer Reading Program the first week of June. With a population less than 2,000 supporting our library, this program would not be possible without our community's support, many volunteer hours and some donations.

The program is open to elementary students. We are proud to report that 103 students registered and participated this year, which is over 60% of the local students.

We ran the program for two hours Monday through Thursday, and on Friday, we took a field trip to Kansas City. We used this year's theme of "Color Our World" for curriculum. The daily itinerary included a snack and a craft along with presentations about various art types.

On Monday, Joni Hawk, children's author of the "Big News in the Barnyard" books, came to visit. Her books are about barnyard animals, so we included a fun barnyard for the children to interact with. Kandi Hughes, an author/illustrator, held an interactive session on writing and illustrating.

During our quick two hours on Tuesday, Selina O'Connor showed the children everything that goes into quilt making. Jonell Cook presented a session on craftsmen's skills to make numerous handcrafts from tooling leather, knot tying, yarn and thread projects and more. The Worth County



Jonell Cook presented various craftsman skills, such as tooling leather, knot tying and more during their second day of summer reading fun. Image provided by Kandi Hughes.

Extension helped with sidewalk chalk art. Patti Spainhower worked with children to follow a recipe to make energy balls, and to top it off, we began a tie-dye pillowcase project.

On Wednesday, Tucker Owens brought his guitar and shared his songwriting expertise and presented various amplifier and audio equipment. Recording artist Josh Daniels taught a vocal introduction class. Alongside the craft of the day making a tea light lantern, everyone completed their tie-dye pillowcase project.

Thursday was all about the theater. Worth County High School students involved in the →



Left: Tucker Owens shows students his guitar, amps, pedal and songwriting on the third day of Worth County Library's summer reading program. Image provided by Kandi Hughes.

Right: Kids playing, jumping, climbing and having fun at Sky Zone on their field trip to Kansas City on the last day of the weeklong summer library program. Image provided by Kandi Hughes.

Tiger Tales Theater along with Nanci Drury presented videos, costumes and fun information highlighting the school's productions. Children had one session on writing scripts and playacting. Another session included some fun theater games. For the final session and craft of the day, the children made puppets.

Friday was the big field trip to Kansas City, over two hours each way. In the morning, we visited

Legoland Discovery Center, and in the afternoon, we jumped on trampolines at Sky Zone.

Needless to say, we were a little exhausted finishing the busy week. Not only did many of the children fall asleep on the bus ride home, but so did some adults.



Shushbooth Provides a Quiet Spot for Ste. Genevieve County Library Patrons

As librarians well know, a silent library is a bit of a misnomer. Programs, events and library fun can bring some lively noise to its spaces. However, some patrons might specifically go to the library for quiet, like at Ste. Genevieve County Library. However, the Ste. Genevieve County Library is a wide open, 4,000 square foot space, so previously, if programming was going on and their meeting room was already in use, some patrons could not always find as quiet spot as they hoped.

But, at the 2023 Association for Rural and Small Libraries (ARSL) conference, Director Shawn Long found a solution in the Shushbooth, a movable private booth that shuts out noise. He talked with a representative there and later purchased one to help meet the needs of their patrons. A few patrons use it to read or take a phone call, but most use it for work or tutoring. Long says, "We have a few regulars who work for hours in it; it's quiet, provides great light and helps cut down on environmental distractions."

Patrons love having the Shushbooth as an option away from the potentially distracting, nearby



Left: The Shushbooth at Ste. Genevieve County Library provides a quiet place for patrons. Image provided by Shawn Long.



fun and to work without disturbing other library-goers. Ste. Genevieve County Library no longer hears so many "aren't libraries supposed to be quiet" complaints, though, as Long recounts, "We had one patron come in and complain that the light is 'too good,' stating that 'people in my Zoom meeting don't need to see my face that good!'"

If you'd like to learn more about the Shushbooth at Ste. Genevieve County Library, contact Director Shawn Long at shawn.long@sgclib.org or (573) 883-3385.

Grant Opportunities

[Educational Presenter Grant](#) • **Deadline: Ongoing**

This open-call grant from the Missouri State Library provides funds for libraries to bring an author or educational presentation to their community. This application is open to Missouri

public libraries certified to receive FY26 state aid, Missouri school libraries publicly supported and publicly controlled, and Missouri academic libraries supported publicly or privately.

[Show-Me Steps To Continuing Education](#) • **Deadline: Ongoing**

This open-call grant from the Missouri State Library provides financial assistance for library staff and trustees to participate in continuing education and training opportunities when local funds cannot finance the entire cost. Continuing education events can be for individuals or groups but must be pertinent to the operational

or service needs of the applicant's library. This application is open to Missouri public libraries certified to receive FY26 state aid, Missouri school libraries publicly supported and publicly controlled, and Missouri academic or special libraries supported publicly or privately.

[The American Revolution: A Story 250 Years in the Making](#) • **Deadline: July 7**

Through a partnership with your local PBS station and producer WETA, this microgrant opportunity provides libraries with \$750 in grant funding to support community programming tied to an upcoming series theme: The American Revolution: A Story 250 Years in the Making. Premiering Nov. 16-21, this six-part, 12-hour series explores the United States' founding and

long-standing ideals of liberty, democracy and independence. You can find more information about the series at [PBS's The American Revolution](#). Programming ideas include film screenings, civic discussions, book clubs, youth engagement projects, history exhibits, speaker events and more.

Professional Development Offerings

Amigos Library Services

Trainings include:

- Information Literacy in the AI Era: Navigating Digital information with Critical Thought, July 9, 1 – 3 p.m.
- Understanding the Needs of Library Users with a Personality Disorder, July 16, 1 – 3 p.m.
- Know & Go: Unlocking the Benefits of Membership in Amigos Library Services, July 21, 1:30 – 2:30 p.m.
- Introduction to MarcEdit, July 23, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.
- Know & Go: Slide Decks for Non-Designers, July 28, 1:30 – 2:30 p.m.
- Know & Go: From Strategic Planning to Strategic Foresight, Aug. 4, 1:30 – 2:30 p.m.

For the complete training list, visit the [Amigos Continuing Education Services Schedule](#).



The Association for Small and Rural Libraries (ARSL)

Trainings include:

- Special TRAIN Session – Get Free access to Roper iPoll! August 12, 1 p.m.

For the complete training list, visit the [ARSL TRAIN Workshops & Roundtables](#).



Collaborative Summer Library Program (CSLP)

Speakers include:

- Dibuja tu mundo con Raúl the Third (Preescolar a 2.º grado), July 8, 1 – 1:30 p.m.
- Drawing Your World with Raúl the Third (PK-2nd Grade), July 8, 3 – 3:30 p.m.

For the complete speakers list, visit [CSLP's Author Talks](#).

MOREnet

Trainings include:

- Word Press for Libraries, July 8, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.
- AI Train the Trainer: From Learner to Leader (CS), July 8, 1 – 2 p.m.
- Artificial Intelligence (AI) Tools and Techniques (CS), July 10, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m., MOREnet Training Rooms – The MILL Columbia
- Empowering Teens: Health, Money and Digital Smarts with Rosen Digital, July 14, 9 – 10 a.m.
- Making STEM Tangible: Circuits and Coding with Everyday Objects (CS), July 14, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m., MOREnet Training Rooms – The MILL Columbia
- Back to the Arcade: Bring Gaming into your Learning Space (CS), July 14, 1 – 4 p.m., MOREnet Training Rooms – The MILL Columbia
- Creative Commons: Using and Sharing Content Legally, July 15, 9 – 10 a.m.
- Makerspaces in the Real World: Design Thinking and Prototyping (CS), July 15, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m., MOREnet Training Rooms – The MILL Columbia
- Teaching Digital Safety and Citizenship (CS), July 17, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m., MOREnet Training Rooms – The MILL Columbia
- Understanding Digital and Media Literacy in Education (CS), July 18, 1 – 4 p.m., MOREnet Training Rooms – The MILL Columbia
- Mastering Test Prep with Learning Express Library, July 28, 9 – 10 a.m.
- Unlock the Future: Interactive Career Exploration with Job & Career Accelerator, July 28, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.
- Unlocking Family Secrets: Genealogy Research with HeritageQuest, July 30, 9 – 10 a.m.

For the complete training list, visit the [MOREnet Training Schedule](#).

Network of the National Library of Medicine (NNLM)

Trainings include:

- Librarians' Guide to Consumer Health, July 14 – Aug. 8, self-paced
- ClinicalTrials.gov for Librarians, July 30, 1 – 2:30 p.m.

For the complete training list, visit [NNLM Training](#).

Niche Academy

Trainings include:

- Fortifying Your Library: Protecting Your Library and Staff Through Policy, July 9, 1 p.m.
- Meetings That Matter: Seven Steps to Running an Effective Meeting, July 23, 1 p.m.

For the complete training list, visit [Niche Academy Upcoming Webinars](#).

Northeast Document Conservation Center (NEDCC)

Trainings include:

- Thinking Outside the Box when Boxing,
July 22, 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

For the complete training list, visit [NEDCC Current Training Programs](#).

WebJunction

Trainings include:

- Elevating Core Skills with New Library Foundation Training (LiFT) Courses,
July 30, 2 – 3 p.m.

For the complete training list, visit the [WebJunction Webinar Calendar](#). Create a free account to access webinar archives and training in the [WebJunction Course Catalog](#).



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