The Curtis Laws Wilson Library is pleased to announce that it has been awarded a $10,188 grant from the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services through the Library Services and Technology Act administered by the Missouri State Library. This grant will be used to digitize selected newspapers from the nineteenth century. The titles selected for digitization are the *Phelps County New Era*, 1875 to 1878; *New Era* (Rolla, Mo.), 1878 to 1888 and 1890 to 1897; and *Rolla Express*, 1860 to 1863.

Since its founding in the 1870s, the library has collected several Phelps county area newspapers in both print and microfilm format. Unfortunately, several of the older print volumes have deteriorated to the point that the newspaper pages are extremely brittle. Some of these volumes have not been microfilmed, which places this valuable historical record in peril. Digitization will not only help preserve the physical volumes by reducing handling but will increase access by allowing users to view the newspapers over the Internet.

The three newspapers to be digitized are valuable to local historians and history students, as well as people interested in genealogy. Since Rolla served as a major regional center in rural south central Missouri, these newspapers often reprinted news items from other newspapers in surrounding counties. Many of the nearby newspapers no longer exist in any format, so the reprinted articles provide a unique historical overview of the whole region.

Once these volumes are digitized, they will be available on the Missouri Historical Newspapers Project website at http://newspapers.umsystem.edu. This project is part of a larger listing of digital collections that can be found on the Virtually Missouri website (http://www.virtuallymissouri.org). The digitization of the newspapers will be completed by June 2005.

The library is excited to be participating in a project that will preserve a valuable part of university and local history.

**Way Back When**

Primary sources provide a valuable window into history. Newspapers in particular provide a glimpse of the past by revealing the attitudes, political views, and mores of previous generations.

The following notices culled from the newspapers to be digitized by Wilson Library provide a sample of the historical highlights to be found in their pages.

**Landmark Events**

“Regular mail coaches from Rolla to Springfield” (*Rolla Express*, August 20, 1860, p. 2)

“Hurah for the railroad: Last Monday evening ... the citizens of Rolla were greeted by the arrival of the first passenger train of cars, at the snug little depot, which has, within a short time, been erected at this place.” (*Rolla Express*, January 7, 1861, p. 2)
Way Back When, cont. from page 1

“Telegraph to Rolla: We see it stated in the St. Louis papers that a line of telegraph is to be extended to this place for military purposes. This will be another lift to our young and thriving little city, placing us in immediate connection with the rest of the world.” (Rolla Express, June 17, 1861, p. 2)

“Troops at Rolla. There was a good deal of sensation created in Rolla on Friday last by the unexpected appearance of glistening bayonets at various points commanding the town, and before the people were aware of it, the town was filled with armed men.” (Rolla Express, August 31, 1861, p. 2)

Daily Life

“Charcoal is condemned as a tooth powder. It is as sharp as diamond dust, and soon wears off the enamel. The great dentrifice that should be used at all times, and under all circumstances, is soap.” (Rolla Express, August 20, 1860, p. 1)

The past is another country; they do things differently there.
—H. P. Hartley

“An epidemic rash is prevalent in Rolla. Nearly everyone, old and young, are affected with it. Our physicians say that it is ‘worn out small pox.’” (New Era, May 1, 1875, p. 3)

School of Mines News

“Diplomas of A. B. are scattered about with a lavish hand at this Commencement season. Let the exuberant young Bachelors of Arts remember, however, that these diplomas are not titles to fame, but provisionary deeds dependent for their full execution on what the holders accomplish hereafter.” (Phelps County New Era, June 25, 1875, p. 3)

“The library of the School of Mines has been fitted up beautifully. It is now a beautiful reading room.” (Phelps County New Era, August 14, 1875, p. 3)

Tragedies & Crime

“A man named F. D. Fosdick who lives with his mother in St. James was killed near Pacific last night after being run over by a freight train, and cut in two. He was brakeman on the train and it is supposed he missed his footing and fell through between the cars.” (Phelps County New Era, August 21, 1875)

“Lebanon, Mo., November 17 – On Tuesday last, William F. Martin, who is under sentence of death for the murder of George Mizer, made his escape from the Lebanon Jail. The circumstances are about as follows: Martha Wilson, a niece of Sheriff Wilson, seems to have become desperately in love with Martin and it was she who worked him out of jail. On Tuesday morning, while Mr. Wilson was away from the house, Martha went to a drawer where the jail keys are usually kept, unlocked the cell-doors, and let Martin out. She furnished him with a Winchester repeating rifle and thirty-six cartridges and $75 in money, the property of her uncle. The infatuated girl, not satisfied with luring Martin out of jail, went along . . . A posse was formed immediately and pursuit begun, but up to this time no tidings have been received of the fugitive.” (New Era, November 20, 1880, p. 3)

Changes in Library Databases

Due to the possibility of cuts in the state budget for the MERLIN library cluster, the member libraries decided this past summer to make some changes in their database subscriptions in the hope of generating savings. As a part of those changes, the library’s subscription to Expanded Academic has been terminated, and users will no longer have access to that database. Also, the ERIC, GeoRef, MLA, PAIS, and ATLA Religion databases will now be received from new vendors, which means that users will encounter different search interfaces when using these databases.

A few databases have been added to Wilson Library’s database offerings as well. Users are now able to access all of the ABI/INFORM databases, including ABI/INFORM Trade & Industry, which covers 750 business periodicals and newsletters with a trade or industry focus, and ABI/INFORM Dateline, covering local and regional business news. Social Services Abstracts covers current research in social work, human services, and related areas, including social welfare, social policy, and community development. A new EbscoHost database, Academic Search Premiere, is also available. This multi-disciplinary database provides article information for 8,040 scholarly publications, including full text for nearly 4,600 publications, more than 3,500 of them peer-reviewed journals. Coverage spans virtually every area of academic study, dating as far back as 1975.

New and Noteworthy

• The library will purchase two new display cases for the lobby area. The cases will be used for informational and educational displays.

• The pick-up anywhere option is now available in MOBIUS. Pick-up anywhere allows users to specify where they want materials they request through the MOBIUS system to be sent for pick up. For example, a patron at UMR could request a book from Southwest Missouri State and have it sent to Washington University, where he or she can check it out. To do so, the patron would have to select the correct MOBIUS library cluster and the appropriate library location for pick up from the MOBIUS request screen.
I heard a rumor that the library is now doing chat reference. Is that true?

Absolutely! The reference department is experimenting this semester with chat reference. From AOL, Yahoo, or MSN, send an instant message from anywhere in the world to libumr, and chat live with a reference librarian. For the time being, though, we’re only monitoring the account during regular reference desk hours (8 to 5 Monday through Friday). So now, if you have a question for a reference librarian, you can come to the reference desk, call, e-mail, or instant message us!

Does the library have anything that I can use to learn about how to do research at the library?

Wilson Library has a new online tutorial, the infoMiner, which provides information about how to research topics. The tutorial has several different sections, including ones on selecting a topic, using the MERLIN library catalog, finding articles, and citing research resources appropriately. You can find the tutorial by scrolling over “Information for Students” on the library’s home page and then clicking on “Tutorials.”

How do I know whether material has been placed on reserve for my class?

Finding reserve materials is easy. On the library web page, click on the “Reserves” link. The link will take you to a page where you can find information about library policies for reserves. If you click on the “Display Reserve Lists” link on this page, you are given two options for searching, by either the professor or the course. The best way to search is by professor, using the professor’s last name. If materials are on reserve for that professor, you will be given a listing of the courses for which materials are available. If you know your course has electronic reserve materials, you can also click on the “Electronic Course Reserves” link on the main reserves page, which will take you to a listing of electronic course reserves by department.

Where is the UMR Depository, and how do I get a book from there?

The depository is actually a cooperative storage facility for low-use materials from the four UM campuses. It’s located in Columbia, but you don’t have to make a trip there to get a book. Materials at the depository can be requested by clicking on “Request Item” in the library catalog record and submitting the form provided. Items will usually arrive at our library in three business days.

Where can I find a list of resources that I can use when doing research for classes?

The library’s web page includes subject guides listing some of the resources that might be helpful to students doing research for classes in the different academic departments on campus. The subject guides include information on resources like databases, books, journals, and web sites that could provide useful information for researchers. You can find a listing of the available subject guides by scrolling over “Information for Students” on the library’s home page and then clicking on “Subject Guides.”

How do I find UMR theses in the catalog?

Finding theses and dissertations used to be difficult, but the catalog makes it simple. Using the keyword search, search for the word “thesis” along with whatever keywords describe your subject. So, if you were looking for a thesis written about wireless networks, search for “thesis wireless networks,” and anything written on that topic will be listed. You can also find every thesis the library has for a particular department by doing a keyword search for “thesis” and the name of the department. A search for “thesis engineering management,” for example, will find over 450 theses written for that department.

What can I do if the article, book, or other material I want is not in our library?

Journal articles not available in the UMR library can be requested through Interlibrary Loan (ILL). Go to the library home page, select “Inter-Library Loan Requests,” and follow the prompts to submit your request using the form provided. Make sure to include as much information as possible about the article you want. If you found the article in a Firstsearch or Ovid database, you may be able to submit your interlibrary loan request directly from those databases.

If the book you want is not available at the library, then check the MERLIN/MOBIOUS catalog for its availability at another library. If your book is available in either MERLIN or MOBIUS, you should request the book directly by using the “Request Item” feature found on the item record in the catalog. It usually takes three to four business days for the books to arrive. Books not found in UMR and not available in the MERLIN/MOBIUS catalog can be ordered through interlibrary loan. Follow the interlibrary loan link from the library’s web page and fill in the form provided. If you found the book you want in the FirstSearch database, you can often submit your interlibrary loan request directly from within that database.

Some U.S. and international patents may be downloaded in full text from various patent databases linked from the Electronic Reference Desk page on the library web site. If you don’t find your patent there, go to the library’s home page and use the interlibrary loan form to submit your request.

Any other materials needed that are not found in this library can be ordered through interlibrary loan. For additional information or help with your request, please call the Interlibrary Loan Department at (573) 341-4006.

“Truth is what stands the test of experience.”

—Albert Einstein
Information Commons — The Future of the Library?

Access to information has always been at the root of a quality education. With the shift from paper to online resources, especially electronic journals, computers and information technology have come to play an important role in providing information to library users. However, the promise of a “paperless library” is far from a reality, since many fully electronic collections only go back to the mid-1970s, leaving decades of important and often cited research inaccessible through electronic means.

In this environment, Wilson Library continues to hold traditional paper materials, including reference works, books, and journals, while allocating an increasing amount of monetary resources to providing electronic content in the form of databases and electronic journals. The library has found that with this proliferation of electronic resources, the number of computers currently available for research use in the library is inadequate. Also, the library’s CLC computers are some of the most heavily used on campus.

Following a nationwide trend in academic libraries, Wilson Library has begun making plans to build an information commons (IC) within the library. An information commons is a space that provides ready access to information technology (including software like Microsoft Office, MATLAB, and SPSS), comfortable seating for both groups and individuals, and easy access to a wealth of print and electronic content. Our IC will also feature the library’s multimedia center, with services including high-quality poster printing and laminating, video digitization, scanning, and color laser printing. Because of the number of computers present, the IC may employ the services of a full-time IT person to provide technical assistance. A reference librarian will also be available to help patrons with all facets of their library research.

The library is currently in the planning stages of developing the Information Commons. We are working closely with Physical Facilities, IT, and Campus Advancement to lay the groundwork for this highly anticipated addition to Wilson Library.

Library & Reference Desk Hours

Wilson Library is open from 8:00 a.m. to midnight every day, all year, except for the following holidays: Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year’s Eve, New Year’s Day, Martin Luther King Day, Memorial Day, July 4, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, and the Friday following Thanksgiving.

During the semester, the Reference Desk will be staffed Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and Sunday through Wednesday, 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Library Acquires ILL Software

In last fall’s issue, we informed you that Interlibrary Loan (ILL) will be using new ILL management software. However, the software that we plan to use has changed from that earlier article. ILL has purchased the ILLiad software package and is working with IT staff members to install the product. ILLiad will replace Web Zap for web-based ILL requests. In addition to being able to place requests, patrons will be able to use the new software to see the status of existing requests, check the history of past requests, request renewals, and receive most of their requested articles in PDF format from a secure website. If you have any questions about the changes, please call ILL at (573) 341-4006 or e-mail the department at ill@umr.edu.

Interested in printing a poster?

Take a look at the library’s new web page for poster printing services at www.umr.edu/~libplot.

The page allows you to view a calendar of currently scheduled appointments for poster printing and laminating. It also includes information about the printing services provided, the costs, and tips for creating posters that will print well. To schedule an appointment, send an e-mail to libplot@umr.edu.

Staff Updates

Called Up

Andy Stewart was called up to join the Army Reserves in August. He was posted to Fort Riley, Kansas for a few months of training before being assigned elsewhere.

Arrivals

Patricia Jean (P. J.) McGinnis joined the library’s Circulation Department in March. She has worked at William Woods University and the Camden County Public Library. P. J. just received a degree in computer science from UMR. While she was a student, she worked at the DNR - Geological Resource and Assessment Division. Her duties there included digitizing geological maps, updating databases, and cleaning up the division library.