New Director at Wilson Library

Andy Stewart is the new director at Curtis Laws Wilson Library. He replaced Jean Eisenman, who retired in September. A member of the library staff since 1987, Andy was formerly the head of collections at the library; he also provided reference services to library patrons.

From the Director

Books were an important part of my life when I was growing up. As a young child, I can remember having books in the house, being read to aloud after dinner, and otherwise developing an appreciation for books and libraries.

I also have wonderful memories from my college years of wandering through the stacks at Iowa State University, just browsing among all the books. I probably should have spent more time studying and less exploring the library, though!

After I earned an MBA from Southwest Missouri State, these earlier favorable experiences with books and libraries eventually pointed me toward a career in librarianship. I received my masters' degree in library and information science from the University of Iowa in 1987. I was extremely fortunate in having the opportunity to interview and receive a job offer from Wilson Library before I graduated. I accepted the offer, and the library has been my home for my entire professional career.

I have learned a tremendous amount about libraries and library work here. I started out with a minimal level of familiarity with serving patrons and using scientific and engineering resources. I feel I have gained in-depth experience in all aspects of library service over the years. And even after fifteen years, there is always more to learn!

To me, providing quality service to library users is the essential element of library work. It is absolutely critical to serve all library visitors effectively. Each user has his or her own unique information needs, and we have a responsibility to help them meet those needs. At the same time, in a world with the Internet and its readily available information, some of which is correct and some of which is not, the library has to help users recognize the value of the organized information made available through libraries. It's easy to use the Internet, but that ease is offset by the likelihood that the information found will be inaccurate or misleading.

As the new director of the Wilson Library, I have these goals for the future:

• To continue to demonstrate the central nature of life-long information skills to all UMR students, staff, and faculty.

Our society revolves around information. People and organizations who utilize information effectively have a distinct advantage over those who do not. Wilson Library's staff is willing and eager to help any library visitor in this endeavor by helping them find the information they need as well as teaching them how to search more effectively for themselves. Whether it is for a five-minute speech, a term paper, or a dissertation, we are your research partners.

• To increase the role and visibility of the library within the campus community.

Traditionally, library staff members have been somewhat reluctant to venture outside the building. With the vast changes in the availability of information outside of the library, it is absolutely critical that we adapt as well and do a better job of publicizing ourselves. Libraries have competitors—some of them commercial enterprises—that are attempting to provide the same services libraries do. We need to let people know about the valuable but free services that we provide.

• To expand library services beyond conventional boundaries, while maintaining the strengths upon which vital libraries have been built.

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Libraries have always focused on print collections, and databases have become a standard part of library services as well. In the future, we need to look for ways to expand our services further. For example, a few years ago I worked on the committee that laid the groundwork for the UM Digital Library (http://digital.library.umsystem.edu/). Those efforts have expanded beyond the pilot project, with a variety of documents being made available online. This type of electronic publishing can be a valuable asset to researchers.

I am excited about the future of Wilson Library. We serve the campus and the community with a tremendous array of staff expertise, access to print and electronic information resources, and eagerness to assist, all delivered with a smile. I am privileged to be the new director; I look forward to serving in this role.

“What we become depends on what we read after all of the professors have finished with us. The greatest university of all is a collection of books.”
—Thomas Carlyle (1795-1881)

Library Adds Steinmetz Collection

Wilson Library is happy to announce the addition of the Charles E. Steinmetz Collection of classical music to the library. The collection of compact discs consists of 638 distinct titles, some containing multiple discs. We are pleased to be able to provide access to this valuable collection and grateful to Mr. Steinmetz for his thoughtful and generous contribution.

The CDs are housed in a glass case in the media area in the northeast corner of the first floor. While it is difficult to browse the CDs in the case, they are organized to make browsing a little easier. The CDs are arranged alphabetically, primarily by first-named composer. In cases where there are many composers, they are filed by performer. In a few cases CDs are filed by title, because no composer or performer dominates.

Searching for a CD online is simpler than browsing. To view an alphabetical list of the titles in the collection in the library catalog, do a subject search for “Steinmetz Collection.” If you’re interested in a particular composer, do an author search for the composer’s name (e.g. “Bach, Johann Sebastian”). Then limit the search by “words in the subject” using the term “Steinmetz.” The results will list all of the Steinmetz CDs that have a selection by that composer. Once you know which CD you would like to borrow, a member of the Circulation Department can retrieve the CD for you.

Mr. Steinmetz, a native of St. Louis, attended the University of Missouri-Rolla and was a member of Alpha Phi Omega, the student chapter of the AICHe, and the MSPE. He graduated in 1951 with a B.S. in Chemical Engineering. He married Georgia Welz in May 1951, and they subsequently had four children: Charles Jr., Elaine, Mark, and Paul. Shortly after his marriage, Mr. Steinmetz entered the Army, serving four years before being discharged. He then worked for various major chemical companies. During his career he traveled extensively, but his family was always a priority. Only after his wife become ill in 1998 did he finally retire for good. Shortly after her death, Mr. Steinmetz was diagnosed with brain cancer; he moved in with his son Paul and spent as much time as possible with his family. He was looking forward to attending his reunion in 2001 but was too ill by that time to do so. He died in May of 2001. It was his wish that the classical music collection that had provided him with pleasure and solace throughout his life be donated to his alma mater.

New and Noteworthy

- We’ve completed the project to put all print federal and state government documents owned by the library in our catalog. MERLIN now includes UMR’s entire print collection of state and federal documents. The project continues with government documents held on microfiche now being cataloged.
- Federal and Missouri tax forms are now available. Come in and pick up your forms from the table in our lobby. We also have reproducible copies of less commonly used forms at the reference desk.
If we don’t have the forms you need, you can find tax forms online. Just follow the “Government Documents” link on the library’s home page and then go to the federal or state government page and follow the links.
Ask Albert!

I'm having problems with a research assignment. How can I get help?

If you have a question about your research, you can get assistance from a librarian by visiting the library's reference desk. You can also send an e-mail message to the librarians by clicking on “Ask a Librarian” on the library page and filling in the form.

If you are having trouble getting started with your research or finding the material you need, more in-depth assistance is available through the library's Research Assistance Program. The program provides consultations with a reference librarian who will help you develop a search strategy and suggest electronic and print resources for your topic. Sign-up sheets are available in the library, or you can request a session online by going to “Information for Students” on the library’s home page and following the link to the RAP request form.

Is there a book that tells what employees of UMR are paid?

A listing of the 2002-2003 salaries of faculty and staff members is available at the library. Just come to the reference desk and ask for the UMR employee salary information. You will need to have identification in order to see the listing.

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 System campuses. It's located in Columbia, but you don't have to make a trip up 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 information requested. Items will usually arrive at our library in three to four business days.

The library has a lot of databases. Which one should I use for my topic?

Here is a brief outline identifying some commonly used databases. If you need articles about psychology, use PsychInfo. For metallurgy, ceramics and materials, use the Materials Science Collection. SciFinder Scholar is an excellent database for chemistry and chemical engineering, as well as physics and some other engineering fields. English studies are covered in ABELL, MLA, JSTOR, and Project Muse; JSTOR and Project Muse can also be used for history, in addition to America: History and Life and Historical Abstracts. Use Philosopher's Index for articles about philosophy. INSPEC covers computer science and physics. Compendex is the comprehensive engineering database, and GeoRef and Geobase are used by geologists and mining engineers. For more information on other databases, check the subject guides on the library’s home page or see a reference librarian.

How do I find UMR theses in the catalog?

Finding theses and dissertations used to be challenging, but the catalog makes it easy. Choose a keyword search, and search for the word “thesis” along with whatever keywords describe your subject. So, if you were looking for a thesis written about Raman spectroscopy, search for “thesis raman spectroscopy,” and anything written on that topic will come right up! As a side note, you can also find every thesis the library has for a particular department by searching for “thesis” and the first word in the name of the department. A search for “thesis civil,” for example, will find 819 theses written for the civil engineering department.

Many libraries have handouts that provide useful information for their patrons. Does this library have any handouts that can help me?

The table opposite the circulation desk is used for handouts and bookmarks when it is not used for tax forms. Handouts are also available in the hanging files to the right of the reference area. The bookmarks are handy guides to using MERLIN, using electronic reserves, requesting books from MERLIN and MOBIUS, and checking your circulation record.

I can’t remember what books I have checked out. Is there some way I can find out?

In the library's catalog, look on the right side of the main menu, and click "View Your Own Record (Renew Items/Create PIN)." You will need to enter your name, Social Security number, and a ‘PIN’ or ‘personal identification number.’ You will be asked to create a PIN if you do not have one. Then you will be able to see what materials you currently have checked out, as well as the status of any items you have requested from another MERLIN or MOBIUS library.

Once you have entered your PIN, you will need to remember it to access your record online in the future. If you forget your PIN, you may come to the library's circulation desk; we won’t be able to tell you what your PIN is, because it is encoded, but we can purge the old PIN so you may create a new one. You will need to show us some identification for us to purge your old PIN.

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

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Carnahan Memorial Bookplates

Notice a special bookplate in one of our books? The Curtis Laws Wilson Library and many libraries throughout Missouri have placed bookplates in selected education and politics books in memory of Mel Carnahan. Mr. Carnahan, governor of the state of Missouri when he died in a plane crash, was a strong supporter of education.

Using the bookplates was an initiative of the Missouri Library Association (MLA). MLA donated books and bookplates to the Rolla Public Library, since Mr. Carnahan had lived in the Rolla area. It also asked other libraries, both public and academic, to participate in commemorating him in this way.

Staff Updates

Departures

Former director Jean Eisenman joined Wilson Library as a reference librarian in the late 1970s. She became director in 1991 and retired in September, 2002. She and her husband Harry Eisenman, professor emeritus of history, now live in Chicago.

Kathy Gallagher, reference librarian and library instruction coordinator, left the library in July 2002 to spend more time with her husband.

Changes

Nena Thomas has replaced Andy Stewart as head of collections. She will continue to work as a reference librarian and subject specialist and will be acting head of reference until the search for new department head is complete.

In September, Melody Warner transferred from the Serials Department to Interlibrary Loan. She is a welcome addition in her new department.

Arrivals

Megan Lowe, reference librarian and library instruction coordinator, began working at the library in early November. Megan is just out of library school, having graduated in August 2002. She recently married and moved with her husband Eric to Rolla from Jackson, Mississippi, at the end of October.

Reference librarian and library outreach coordinator Sherry Mahnken joined the staff in early November. After working at the University of Missouri-Columbia’s Ellis Library while completing her degree in library science, Sherry was employed at a public library in Illinois before moving back to Missouri.

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, New Year’s, 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.

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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/MOBIUS 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 Dept. at (573) 341-4006.

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Books are hindrances to persisting stupidity.

-Spanish Proverb

Ask Albert, cont. from p. 3

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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.

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