

## Library Services, Social Distancing, and COVID-19 Restrictions

The Thomas Jefferson Library has changed some of the ways in which we provide our services to UMSL faculty, students, and staff this semester to ensure social distancing and safety as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. While some of the ways we assist our patrons may have changed a bit this semester, we still strive to provide excellent services that support the academic scholarship of the UMSL Community.

- The building is open normal hours so patrons can come check out books, use book scanners, study at open tables or study carrels, get coffee or a snack at Café TJ, and much more. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, individual and group study rooms are not available this semester. For building hours please go to: <https://libguides.umsl.edu/hours>
- All of our research assistance will be provided to faculty, students, and staff online via chat, Zoom, or email. For more information, please see our Remote Services page: <https://libguides.umsl.edu/remote>
- Library instruction sessions for courses can be provided both synchronously and asynchronously via Zoom. For more information and to request an instruction session please see the Libraries' Faculty Services guide: <https://libguides.umsl.edu/faculty-services>
- The Public Service Desk is arranged to allow patrons to swipe their own ID cards and to scan and desensitize the items they want to check out. This will allow for minimal physical contact at the Public Service Desk.
- Some of the furniture and study carrels have been moved to ensure social distancing.
- Stairwells are one-directional and signage has been placed around the building to direct the flow of traffic.
- The Libraries have a maximum occupancy limit of 25% of the building's capacity. The student employees who staff the Public Service Desk will keep a count of anyone entering and leaving the building.

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# Personal Librarian Pilot Program



Librarians at the Thomas Jefferson Library are starting a new initiative this semester aimed at helping First Year Experience students. Our new initiative is a Personal Librarian Program that pairs FYE students with a particular librarian. This program gives students a personal contact who will help them navigate all of the services available in the Libraries, including help with developing research strategies and finding scholarly resources for projects and papers.

[Learn More](#)

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## Library Resource Evaluation

As a result of the recent COVID-19 funding shortfalls to the campus, the library is reevaluating expenditures for journals, databases, and books. We've already begun the process by eliminating some abstract/index databases and another group of lower-usage items. The book budget will also be significantly reduced. Unfortunately, since journal and database subscriptions make up the largest portion of our budget, most of the cuts will have to come from these resources.

The library is working with the other UM campuses to renegotiate with Wiley and Elsevier for content. In recent years it has become clear that we, and many other universities, can no longer afford the broad spectrum of resources packaged into the "big deals" that have been popular for many years. And while some vendors have held prices level this year in recognition of widespread budget reductions, others are still raising prices by the usual 3-5% or more, continuing the constant erosion of our budget through inflation.

In the next couple of months we will be asking departments for feedback on which resources to cut and which they'd prefer we try to protect. Time is limited, but we will try to work with everyone as we make decisions about library resources.

As always, the University Libraries are committed to work with you and your students to supply as many resources as possible through our own purchases, interlibrary loan, and MERLIN and MOBIUS arrangements. To get the most out of these resources, please take advantage of our options for class sessions, individual assistance (chat, research consultations) and self-help (guides, FAQs). Information and access to all our resources is available on our web site: <http://www.umsl.edu/library>.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

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## Learn about Affordable and Open Educational Resources

The beginning of the semester brings with it a buzz of nervous energy, as both faculty and students prepare for a new term. Though many have chosen the resources they will be using this fall in their courses, there is still much to be gained from knowing about affordable and open materials. These low- and no-cost ebooks — and more! — can be a valuable pedagogical asset:

- Open texts can be used as supplemental selections to enhance student learning in addition to your syllabus readings. For example, a statistics class might include access to [open interactive exercises](#) to give students additional practice with no grade penalty.
  - Open materials can be presented as a model of specific assignment expectations. A public policy class might present students with [free online case studies](#) to help as they design an end-of-term public policy project.
  - Open assignments can also offer students proof-of-concept of how the skills they learn in class might apply in the “real world.” The [Open Pedagogy Notebook](#) offers numerous examples of student work made both visible (i.e., public) and useful (i.e., applicable beyond the classroom).
  - For more resources, check out [the Affordable and Open Resources website](#), hosted by [the Thomas Jefferson Library](#). The site offers a variety of links to resource depositories, the work of other instructors in the open education space, and much more. You can also get in touch with one of our librarians for an open ed consultation, or sign up for one of our affordable/open education online workshops.
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ST. LOUIS - JAN. 1915  
*Alton Ltd. ascending west approach to Merchant's  
Bridge elevated.*

## The Mercantile Library Welcomes You Back In Person and Online

Welcome back! Like the Thomas Jefferson Library staff, we at the Mercantile Library look forward to this new semester. Although it brings new challenges, we have safety protocols in place to ensure we can continue to provide the research and resource support you need. We can do this on two fronts – both in-person and online. The Mercantile Library staff have been busy during the shut-down building our online collections through the UMSL Digital Library. Among the notable additions are extensive photographic records in the [Barriger Railroad Library](#), paintings and drawings by St. Louis architect and artist [Angelo Corrubia](#) (1881-1943), and botanical prints published by [André Francois Michaux](#) (1770-1855). Additional items have also been added to the [Shopmaker American Political Collection](#), which may be a timely addition to your syllabus in this election year.

There are changes to our in-person visitor and reference services to enable adherence with University safety guidelines. These include maintaining physical distance of six feet whenever possible, wearing a face covering at all times in the Library, and avoiding coming to campus if you have a fever or any COVID-19 symptoms. Physical distancing in our Reference Room has resulted in less patron seating, so we encourage you to begin your search using our online resources including our [Research Guides](#) and [Digital Library](#). You may also request research assistance through the online [Research Portal](#). If your research requires an in-person visit, you are strongly encouraged to make an appointment to ensure

seating in the Reference Room will be available for you. This can be arranged through the Research Portal or by contacting a curator directly by phone at 314-516-7240 or by email to [MercantileLibrary@UMSL.edu](mailto:MercantileLibrary@UMSL.edu). The Mercantile Library has suspended in-person tours indefinitely, but consider signing up for our email list by emailing us at [MercantileLibrary@umsl.edu](mailto:MercantileLibrary@umsl.edu) and following us on [Facebook](#) to be the first to know when our services change.

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## Updated UMSL Faculty Profiles

This summer library science students combed through UMSL faculty works to find and showcase your scholarship. The students added over two thousand new links in SelectedWorks profiles. You can find your profile in the gallery site at [https://irl.umsl.edu/sw\\_gallery.html](https://irl.umsl.edu/sw_gallery.html).

COVID-19 caused many library science graduate students at the iSchool at the University of Missouri Columbia to cancel their in-person library practicums. Helena Marvin, the institutional repository librarian at UMSL, created a new fully remote practicum, having the students explore and showcase UMSL faculty works. The practicum students added links to journal articles and uploaded PDFs of more than two hundred faculty works, those that allow full-text open access versions to be shared. Between March and August, faculty profiles had more than 17,000 full-text works downloaded.

The works added to faculty profiles were ones that faculty listed in MyVita, which are found on the University of Missouri Discovery site at <https://missouri.discovery.academicanalytics.com/>. The UMSL library thanks faculty for updating their MyVita and to the UMSL Digital Humanities Lab for hosting our practicum site, where you can read the practicum students and see pictures of their work from home pet supervisors at <http://umsl.digitalhumanities.org/openaccess/practicum-students-supervisors/>.

To find out more about Faculty Profiles and how your works are showcased, email [irl@umsl.edu](mailto:irl@umsl.edu) or visit the UMSL Library's guide at <https://libguides.umsl.edu/facultyexpertise>.

