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Between the Stacks

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Between the Stacks, 10-2021

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Accessibility Committee

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Between the Stacks

UPCOMING EVENTS



- **Voter Registration Drive** - Tues., Sept. 28, 10AM - 2 PM - McWherter Library entrance - [Sign up >](#)
- **MEMFLIX: *The Souls of Black Girls* Viewing & Discussion** - Tues., Sept. 28, 6-8 PM - UC, River Room - [Learn more >](#)
- **Tigers Write: 5 Tips to Make Your Papers Roar** - Virtual Event - Wed., Sept. 29 - 6-7 PM
- **MEMFLIX: *Just Wright* Viewing & Discussion** - Tues., Oct. 5, 6-8:30 PM - UC, River Room - [Learn more >](#)
- **Gay Faulkner & the Importance of Acknowledging the Queer South** - Hybrid Event - Wed., Oct. 6, 6-7:30 PM - McWherter, 2nd Floor Commons - [Zoom link >](#) (passcode: 835551)
- **DWR Writing Sprints** - Virtual Events - Oct. 8, 1-4 PM & Oct. 21, 6-9 PM - [Learn more >](#)
- **Dissertation Writers Retreat (DWR): Base Camp** - Hybrid Event - Tues., Oct. 12, 10 AM-3 PM - McWherter, 2nd Floor Commons - [Learn more >](#)
- **OER (Open Educational Resources) Office Hours** - Fri., Oct. 8 & 15, 2-4 PM - 226 - [Schedule an appointment >](#)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Upcoming Breaks & Holidays

Fall Break: Oct. 9-10, CLOSED
Oct. 11-12, 8am—6pm (McWherter)

Changes to the Website

- [Libraries Main page](#)
- [Digital Commons](#)
- [McWherter Library Map](#)

CATCH ME UP ON 2020

New Employees Since 2020

- Karen Brunsting, Acquisitions Librarian (Coll Mgmt) joined us on 1/6/20
- Sofiya Dahman, Resource & ILL Librarian (ILL) joined us on 3/30/20
- Dani Sposato, Library Assistant II (Coll Mgmt), joined us on 5/26/2020
- Carl Hess, First Year Librarian (RIS) joined us 7/20/20
- Leslie Collie, Integrated System Librarian (LIS) joined us on 10/26/20
- Olivia Chin, Library Assistant III (Lambuth) joined us on 9/13/2021

ACCESSIBILITY TOOLS & RESOURCES

What is Accessibility?

The University Libraries Accessibility Committee works to improve the accessibility of Libraries policies, services, and resources. Every month we will cover a concept or accessible practice to help everyone in the Libraries improve the accessibility of what they do.

So, what is “accessibility?” The UK’s [Accessibility in Government blog](#) summarized it nicely when it said that something is accessible when “people are not excluded from using something on the basis of experiencing a disability.” Accessibility, then, is intertwined with the concept of “disability.” [The CDC](#) defines a disability as

any condition of the body or mind (impairment) that makes it more difficult for the person with the condition to do certain activities (activity limitation) and interact with the world around them (participation restrictions).

According to the [National Center for Education Statistics](#), 19% of undergraduate students report having a disability. There are [many types of disabilities](#), including vision, mobility, auditory, neurological, cognitive, medical, and psychological. [A disability can also be temporary](#), such as those caused by recoverable injuries, short-term illness, and some medical procedures. All these affect people’s ability to do activities and interact with the world around them in different ways.

Accessibility empowers people with disabilities by ensuring when they try to do an activity it can be done in a comparable amount of time and effort as it would take someone without a disability. Because of the wide varieties of disability, accessibility is not a “yes or no” situation. As the [Accessibility in Government blog](#) notes, what is accessible to one person might be inaccessible to someone with a different disability. [The UofM’s Office of Institutional Equity](#) identified three major areas for eliminating barriers to accessibility: in physical access, in information and materials, and on the web.

Professional Development

We will also use this column to share training and development opportunities on accessibility and disability. To start, we wanted to draw attention to a series of [ASERL webinars](#) from last year that were done in partnership with the [Library Accessibility Alliance](#):

- An Introduction to Disability ([Recording](#), [Slides \[PDF\]](#))
- Disability Awareness – Use of Physical Spaces by Persons with Disabilities ([Recording](#), [Slides \[PDF\]](#))
- Website Accessibility 101 ([Recording](#), [Slides \[PDF\]](#))
- Overview of E-Resource Assessment Process ([Recording](#))

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