

University of Memphis

## University of Memphis Digital Commons

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Between the Stacks

University Libraries

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3-29-2022

### **Between the Stacks, 04-2022**

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Accessibility Committee

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# Between the Stacks

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- **University Libraries Colloquium: “The Role of Health Information Professionals: Reflections During the COVID-19 Pandemic” - April 1, 10-11:30am, 2nd Floor Commons (McWherter) & via Zoom: [bit.ly/ULfaculty2](https://bit.ly/ULfaculty2) (Passcode: 981505), open to all with coffee & refreshments.** At the next event in this monthly series, Dr. Irma Singarella, Health Sciences Librarian, will discuss the diverse roles of health information professionals and how they have adjusted and delivered services during the Coronavirus disease crisis. She will discuss quality information and information access as a basic human right, and provide an overview of the challenges of misinformation and disinformation, especially during a pandemic.
- **Read + Chill Piano Recital - April 8, 11:45am, McWherter Library rotunda** - UofM Music students will give live performances; a food truck will also be parked outside McWherter.



- **Sandbox Starter: Intro to Adobe InDesign - April 12, 2:30pm, the sandbox.** (McWherter) - Get started with this digital & print layout software; free to all & walk-ins are welcome.
- **“Culture Shock: Providing Support and Services to UofM’s Growing International Student Population” - April 15, 1-2pm, via Zoom** - [Learn more>](#)
- **Tigers Write: “Conclusions - Finishing Strong” - April 19, 6-7pm, via Zoom** - [Learn more>](#)
- **Maker Monday: Grow It! - April 25, 2:30-3:30pm, the sandbox.** (McWherter) - Make your own seed paper bookmark just in time for Earth Day; free to all & walk-ins are welcome.
- **Exam Week Events**
  - **Mario Kart Tournament** - April 28, Noon-3pm, the sandbox. Snacks & prizes!
  - **Movie Theater Popcorn** - April 29, Noon-1pm, McWherter



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### McWherter Hours

- **Exam Week: April 28 - May 5**  
Thursday, April 28, 7:30 AM-1 AM  
Friday, April 29, 7:30 AM-10 PM  
Saturday, April 30, 10 AM-10 PM

## ACCESSIBILITY

- Robert Watson

To learn how people with disabilities interact with the world, we need to actively listen to them. [JJ Pionke](#) writes that libraries have generally instituted ADA compliance measures since the law came into effect in 1990, but for libraries to be truly accessible for all people, they must incorporate principles of universal design not just into the physical spaces of a building but into all aspects of the library. If one is going to design a space for the broadest range of possible users, those users should be involved in the designing and testing.

Use of physical spaces by disabled persons can be very frustrating. According to [Heidi Schroeder](#), a building can be theoretically compliant, and yet not accessible. Are ramps in need of repair or update that ostensibly enable entry to a building? Are there internal area maps that may be accurate, but are not fully descriptive? Are there study carrels without clear space of 60” in which a wheelchair can turn around? Is there at least clear space into the study carrel area? Are entrances and exits easily accessible? Schroeder maintains that there needs to be someone in charge of these issues to ensure accessibility, not just compliance.

The framework of third place theory becomes possible when dedicated accessibility services and universally designed services and spaces enhance ease of use for persons with disabilities once they have physically entered the building. [Ray Oldenburg](#) calls one’s “first place” the home, along with those with whom one lives. The “second place,” the workplace, may be where people actually spend much of their time. According to [K.T.L.Vaughan](#), “third place” is where one can work and socialize and feel comfortable in a communal space. Academic libraries need to be a center of belonging and welcoming and create inclusive spaces for all users, faculty, staff, students, and community.

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