

Mizzou Weekly

Sept. 6, 2012 Volume 34, No. 3

MU Libraries celebrates 150 years of being a U.S. government depository



ROWS OF DOCUMENTS Marie Concannon, shown in Ellis Library, is the government documents regional director. MU Libraries houses 1.7 million federal works as part of the Federal Depository Library Program. Rob Hill photo

HIDDEN TREASURES

Collection utilized by scholars, students and the public

MU Libraries has a treasure trove of rare and important works. But not all are part of Special Collections and Rare Books, which number in the tens of thousands.

Interested in a first-person account of an 1860s government-funded Arctic expedition? Curious about remarks made at the first session of the U.S. Congress in 1789? Want an off-the-record transcript of John F. Kennedy discussing the 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis?

All that and more is sitting on bookshelves in Ellis Library. Books, pamphlets, periodicals and journals that might evoke a surface yawn to most readers come to life when the pages are turned. Judging a book by its bland cover and perfunctory titles — like *The Foreign Relations of the United States*, *The U.S. Congressional Serial Set* and *Selective Service in Wartime* — simply doesn't work with this collection, though typically you have to dig a little to find the gold.

"They are the ultimate primary source to what was going on then," said Marie Concannon, government documents regional director. "It's like looking at history through a microscope."

Don't judge a book by its cover

This year, MU Libraries is celebrating its 150th year as the U.S. federal government's state regional depository. The library houses 1.7 million federal works as part of this program.

The Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP) was created in 1813 to “keep America informed,” as it says in Title 44 of the *United States Code*, by printing legislative documents for public consumption. It was a time when America's freedoms as set forth in the Constitution were still fresh in the minds of lawmakers. It made sense to Congress to open its government studies, analysis, hearings, reports and debates to Americans through select public libraries.

MU Libraries joined the FDLP at a volatile time. The Civil War was raging and Boone County residents had strong Confederate sympathies and hostility toward the Union.

According to the 1860 U.S. Census, Boone County had 885 slaveholders and 5,034 slaves, fourth and third, respectively, among Missouri counties. “It was a brave move by the university to join a federal program at that time considering mid-Missouri's Confederate leanings,” Concannon said.

Today, more than 1,200 American libraries are part of the depository program. MU was the fifteenth to join, and because it joined so early, it has one of the best early government documents collection in the country. Last May, U.S. Rep. Blaine Luetkemeyer (R-St. Elizabeth) praised the MU catalogue and the 1,200 depository libraries in America during a speech on the House of Representatives floor.

“Depository libraries still act as the bridge between our nation's government and its services, offering free access and assistance to interested individuals,” he said.

Most of MU Libraries' government collection is on campus. But due to space considerations and document themes that might attract a wider audience elsewhere, tens of thousands of materials are at MU's partner depositories. Two partners are Washington University in St. Louis and the University of Central Missouri, which stores the collection's Air Force materials because of its offering aviation classes and its proximity to Whiteman Air Force Base.

Government documents are generally free of copyright restrictions, yet most from decades past are not yet readily available online. Concannon estimates that less than 10 percent of MU's vast collection can be found there.

MU's collection has both scholarly and practical interest. Researchers in economics use data from the Bureau of Economic Analysis and the Department of Treasury. Political science researchers are interested in the countless documents from Congress. Geology scientists are interested in the U.S. Geological Survey, while engineers request reports from the Department of Energy, the Department of Transportation and NASA.

A recent information request to the department involved a Missouri municipality wanting to find out what entity in the 1930s built a flood control wall that broke; the municipality wanted to charge the proper government entity for the repair cost. Another request was from a citizen wanting information on a 1981 tax code relating to an estate, after learning that the Internal Revenue Service didn't have the record.

Government documents can also entertain and enlighten. “I find it most fulfilling when I can show a person how much there is in government documents about their greatest interest,” Concannon said. A movie fan, for instance, might be interested in the House Committee on Un-American Activities hearings on the film industry in 1947 that included combative interviews with actor Ronald Reagan and filmmaker Walt Disney, she said.

‘My heart is red and sweet’

Concannon was randomly flipping through one of the 15,000 volumes of the *U.S. Congressional Serial Set*, published between 1817 and 1980, when she made a remarkable find.

Buried in an 1883 volume was a report on the condition of a Sioux tribe on a “Territory of the Dakota” reservation. Government officials had set up a committee there and invited the American Indians to speak before it, including the legendary Sitting Bull.

At the time, the Sioux had been on the reservation for 15 years, after they'd nearly starved from losing their traditional hunting grounds to settlers. The government recorder captured one of the last great acts of defiance by a Native American chief. The council chairman was condescending and dismissive of Sitting Bull, and appeared to fear the power the chief still held over his people on the reservation. The chairman refused to acknowledge Sitting Bull as leader of his people.

Chairman: “I do not know any difference between you and the other Indians at this agency.”

Sitting Bull: “I am here by the will of the Great Spirit; and by his will I am chief. My heart is red and sweet, and I know it is sweet because whatever passes near me puts out its tongue to me. And yet you men have come here to talk with us, and you say you do not know who I am. I want to tell you that if the Great Spirit has chosen anyone to be the chief of this country, it is myself.”

Sitting Bull scolded the committee. “You have conducted yourselves like men who have been drinking whiskey, and I came here to give you some advice.”

With a wave of the chief’s hand, “the Indians left the room in a body,” the government recorder wrote.

GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS WEBSITES:

- libraryguides.missouri.edu/govfulltext (<http://libraryguides.missouri.edu/govfulltext>)
- hathitrust.org (<http://hathitrust.org>)

SELECTED LIBRARY DATABASES:

- U.S. Congressional Serial Set: tinyurl.com/8yah774 (<http://tinyurl.com/8yah774>)
- Proquest Congressional: tinyurl.com/6rhorls (<http://tinyurl.com/6rhorls>)

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Fruits, vegetables might help prevent a type of breast cancer

FIGHTING CANCER

Funding for research on the natural remedy has several roadblocks

Sometimes preventative health is simple: Women can reduce their risk of an aggressive form of breast cancer by eating certain fruits, vegetable and spices.

Apigenin, a natural and common substance, shows promise as a non-toxic treatment for a breast cancer known as BT-474, Mizzou researchers announced in the most recent issue of the journal *Hormones and Cancer*.

BT-474 is stimulated by progestin, a synthetic hormone doctors give to women to ease symptoms related to menopause. Studies show that apigenin shrinks cancer tumors stimulated by progestin.

Salman Hyder, a professor of biomedical sciences in the College of Veterinary Medicine, implanted BT-474 cancer cells into mice. The animals were also injected with medroxyprogesterone acetate, or MPA, a type of progestin commonly given to post-menopausal women.

For the study, 12 mice were chosen that developed two tumors each. The group was divided in half, with one set of mice receiving apigenin and the other set receiving no treatment. Tumors continued to grow in the mice that didn't receive apigenin, while the tumors shrank in the mice that received the natural substance.

"We don't know exactly how apigenin does this on a chemical level," Hyder said. "We do know that apigenin slowed the progression of human breast cancer cells in three ways: by inducing cell death, by inhibiting cell proliferation and by reducing expression of a gene associated with cancer growth."

Scientists believe apigenin may starve the tumors by restricting blood flow to them. In the mice study, Hyder and his colleagues discovered that blood vessels feeding the cancer cells were restricted in the apigenin-treated mice.

Hyder hopes that someday apigenin injections will be a safe alternative or supplement to chemotherapy.

"Chemotherapy drugs cause hair loss, extreme fatigue and other side effects," he said. "Apigenin has shown no toxic side effects even at high dosages. People have eaten it since pre-history in fruits, vegetables and curcumin, which is a common spice."

But funding for clinical testing of apigenin in humans may be difficult, according to Hyder.

"One problem is that, because apigenin doesn't have a known specific target in the cancer cell, funding agencies have been reticent to support the research," he said.

Also, pharmaceutical companies won't likely profit from the natural treatment, he said. "The industry won't put money into studying something you can grow in your garden."

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School of Law dean sees great future for graduates despite challenges



NEW LEADERSHIP Gary Myers faces many of the same challenges at MU that he faced at the Mississippi School of Law. Courtesy of MU News

SCHOOL OF LAW

Some graduates may need to consider positions outside traditional law firms, the new dean says

On Aug. 15, Gary Myers became the law school's new dean. Myers, the former associate dean for research and a professor of law at the University of Mississippi, replaces Larry Dessem, who was dean for 10 years.

"I believe that there is a good fit here at MU for me," Myers said. "I hope to build on the work of my predecessors in continuing to assure Missouri's place among the great state law schools in the country."

Myers had been with the Mississippi School of Law since 1989, where he has faced many of the challenges MU faces. "Both schools also have some great opportunities, including the tremendous educational value they offer to students," he said.

Myers wants to build on Missouri's position as a flagship state law school with a long tradition of training lawyers who have taken positions of leadership in law, business and public service.

"I hope to expand the law school's experiential learning opportunities, to continue recruiting and retaining outstanding faculty members, to increase interdisciplinary collaboration with other parts of the university, and to assemble a diverse and high-quality student body," he said.

Provost Brian Foster said that Myers' expertise in intellectual property law is a plus given MU's emphasis on entrepreneurship.

Myers agrees.

"Looking at the various elements of the Mizzou Advantage, for example, intellectual property plays an important role in each facet of that initiative," he said. "It is already an area of strength in the law school, so I hope to build on all of those relationships and to continue my own work in the intellectual property field."

Law schools throughout the country face the challenges of job placement in tough economic times and doing better preparing students to practice law.

On the skills-training front, Myers said he hopes the law school can expand both the number and the type of experiential learning opportunities offered to students. "I plan to devote a significant part of my time and energy to working with the faculty on developing these opportunities and to finding support for these efforts from alumni and other lawyers," he said. "The legal community can help in this effort by offering their time or their financial support."

"With regard to placement, I think the law school has been doing well despite the challenging market," Myers said. "The recent reduction in the size of the entering class should help improve placement in future years."

Myers said law school graduates also need to consider careers outside law firms in these tough times. There are positions available for law graduates in business, public interest and government, he said.

"All law schools face a challenging economic and fiscal environment," Myers said, "but I am confident that MU's law school is well positioned to continue to offer a high quality, affordable legal education."

MU continues to flip-flop in law school rankings. In 2009, *U.S. News & World Report* ranked the university at No. 65, but by 2011 it had fallen to No. 107. This year it climbed to No. 79.

Under Myers' direction, the law school will continue to have a smaller entering class for the next few years. "I believe this will help to make our rankings more stable," Myers said.

"The most important thing I can do" Myers said, "is to try to find additional sources of revenue to support the law school's operations, to support faculty development and scholarships, and to fund new initiatives."

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A power plant worker and his muse



Jesse Hall by Chris Heffner

Chris Heffner bought a mid-cost camera five years ago. Nothing has been the same since.

Born in Columbia, Heffner worked at MU for 38 years, including 35 years at the Power Plant. He retired Aug. 3 as a material handler. Over the years, he's taken hundreds of photographs of MU sunrises from perches in the sky.

Many days Heffner arrived at the plant at 5:15 a.m., even though his shift started at 6 a.m. He'd climb five stair flights inside the plant and two exterior flights along the coal silo or one of two cooling towers.

Then he'd look east.

"I'd wait for the sun to do its thing," Heffner said. "Every minute or so the scene changed."

When the bursting colors looked right, he started clicking. Jesse Hall, in his direct line of sight, became his muse.

"I was fascinated by Jesse Hall," Heffner said. "It had its own lights and would kind of glow."

Now that he's retired, he won't be taking anymore Jesse Hall pictures, he said.

His new muse is the Katy Trail.

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MU to celebrate the Morrill Act

Mizzou doesn't forget its roots.

From 9:30 a.m.–3 p.m. on Sept. 13, the university will celebrate on Lowry Mall 150 years of being a public land-grant institution. In 1862, the Morrill Act established these universities through a gift of, or receiving proceeds from selling, federal land.

CAFNR, Campus Facilities, the School of Health Professions, the School of Medicine and MU Extension will have booths at the event.

The Lowry Mall event came about due to MU's involvement this summer in the celebration of public land-grant universities at the Smithsonian Folklife Festival in Washington, D.C.

Mizzou was one of about 25 public land-grant universities to take part in the D.C. event.

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Buck's sponsors Tigers

Buck's Ice Cream, produced on the University of Missouri campus, is now the official ice cream of the Missouri Tigers. The ice cream went on sale Sept. 1 at MU sporting events.

Buck's is a product of CAFNR's Food Science program. Scientists craft more than 30 flavors of high-quality ice cream. Buck's signature Tiger Stripe flavor consists of French vanilla blended with Dutch cocoa.

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