

SHOW ME EXPRESS

State Library Newsletter

March 2025



Denny Hoskins, CPA
Missouri Secretary of State



State Library News

Janet Caruthers Appointed as New State Librarian

Secretary of State Denny Hoskins chose Janet Caruthers to be Missouri's State Librarian. Caruthers' start date was Feb. 1.

Caruthers was appointed acting state librarian by former Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft in November 2024 after Robin Westphal announced her resignation. Prior to November, Janet was the technology and resource sharing consultant for the Missouri State Library's Library Development division since 2019. From 1990 to 2019, she worked for Columbia College in the Stafford Library, Columbia, and she held several positions including audiovisual services coordinator, reference librarian, systems librarian

and 17 years as library director. Ms. Caruthers earned her Master of Library Science degree from the University of Missouri.

"I am honored to be selected for this position and enjoy working with Missouri's library patrons and staff and the Missouri State Library staff," Caruthers said. "I appreciate Secretary Hoskins' confidence and appreciate working with him and his team supporting the role libraries have in Missouri communities."

Congratulations, Janet Caruthers!

Collection Analysis Tools available in TeachingBooks

Librarians – you can use the TeachingBooks Collection Analysis tools to ensure that your collections, book displays, reading lists and more meet the needs of your patrons. Learn about the Collection Analysis Initiative [here](#) and visit the [Training Opportunities](#) page to

see the schedule of the upcoming webinars. Some webinars are geared more toward school librarians or public librarians, but everyone is welcome to attend each webinar! Please register in advance.



SLP Peer Idea Exchange on March 27

Have a great Summer Library Program (SLP) idea that you're willing to share? Join us for our SLP Peer Idea Exchange on Thursday, March 27 at the Missouri State Library office.

This will be an in-person event with all registrants sharing **one project idea** (as a 5-10 minute presentation) that you have implemented in the past or that you plan to implement this summer. If you want to present with a buddy or a team, you can present one shared idea.

What we'll provide:

- An event space and tech support for you to share your idea
- A PowerPoint template with recommended bullet points so all presenters cover the same basic content

The Summer Library Program Supplemental Manual is Here!

After hearing all of the marvelous ideas librarians across Missouri shared at our Summer Library Program Workshops, we gathered them into one place to create the Summer Library Program Supplemental Manual. This manual is a free resource for you to pair with this year's CSLP theme *Color Our World*.

Inside are programming ideas shared at our workshops with possible modifications, additional resources and book pairings provided by Missouri State Library staff and our workshop attendees. We have included your responses about various SLP topics as well as some more programming ideas for a handful of national days during summer. We also have lots of photos from our workshops, so take a peak and see if you can spot yourself or your SLP besties!

TeachingBooks Survey

We'd like to get feedback from our public and school libraries on whether TeachingBooks (and the Collection Analysis tools within TeachingBooks) are working for you. Please

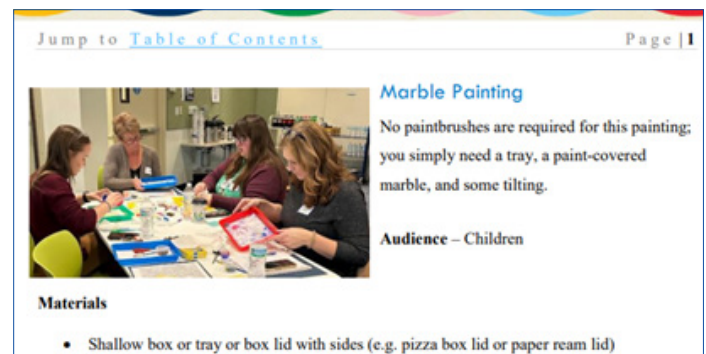
- LUNCH!
- A slide deck of all project ideas after the event

What we need from you:

- A completed [registration form](#) from everyone who plans to attend
- Completed slides that describe your project idea (slide template will be shared upon registration)
- A commitment to have fun!

We will need a minimum of 15 unique ideas in order to hold the event. Registration will remain open until Friday, March 14 at which time we will notify registrants if we need to cancel the event.

Let us know if you have any questions!

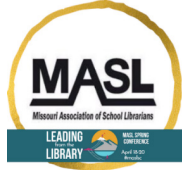


We have a limited supply of physical copies, so they're first come, first serve. To request a physical copy, please contact Merideth Johnson at merideth.johnson@sos.mo.gov. We also have a digital copy available [here](#). We hope this resource helps your summer library planning, and we can't wait to see your summer reading ideas in action!

complete [this SHORT survey](#) or share with your youth services colleagues to complete. Even if you do not currently use TeachingBooks, we would love to know that!



Lists, Awards and Literary Calendar!



Enjoy and share the updated Missouri state lists!

- [Denny O'Neil Graphic Novel List, 2025, Grades K-2](#)
- [Denny O'Neil Graphic Novel List, 2025, Grades 3-5](#)
- [Denny O'Neil Graphic Novel List, 2025, Grades 6-8](#)
- [Denny O'Neil Graphic Novel List, 2025, Grades 9-12](#)
- [Dogwood Nonfiction Reading List, 2025, Grades K-2](#)
- [Dogwood Nonfiction Reading List, 2025, Grades 3-5](#)
- [Dogwood Nonfiction Reading List, 2025, Grades 6-8](#)
- [Dogwood Nonfiction Reading List, 2025, Grades 9-12](#)
- [Great Kids Can Read, 2025-2026, Grades 2-4](#)
- [Missouri Building Block Picture Book Award, 2025, PreK](#)
- [Show Me Readers Award, 2025-2026, Grades 1-3](#)
- [Mark Twain Readers Award, 2025-2026, Grades 4-6](#)
- [Truman Readers Award, 2025-2026, Grades 6-8](#)
- [Gateway Readers Award, 2025-2026, Grades 9-12](#)

Here are some of the most distinguished children's and young adult book awards:

- [Newbery Medal](#) (1922-2025) – Honoring outstanding contributions to children's literature.
- [Caldecott Medal](#) (1938-2025) – Recognizing the best picture books of the year.
- [Coretta Scott King Book Awards](#) (1970-2025) – Celebrating books that reflect African American culture and universal human values.
- [Pura Belpré Awards](#) (1996-2025) – Highlighting the narratives of Latinx culture and heritage.
- [Stonewall Children's and Young Adult Literature Award](#) (2010-2025) – Recognizing LGBTQ+ literature for children and young adults.

Want to celebrate literature all year long? Check out the [TeachingBooks Literary Calendar](#), which highlights significant literary dates, author birthdays and book-related events. It's a fantastic resource for readers and educators.



State of Missouri Discontinuing Cybersecurity Blacklist Portal

By [Webmaster MOREnet](#)

The State of Missouri's Office of Cybersecurity has announced the end of publishing their blacklists, as it poses a security risk. Over the years, the state advertised this portal at several MOREnet events and has had a substantial number of K-12 and library users. If you are still utilizing the portal for blacklists, please know the website will be decommissioned on March 3.

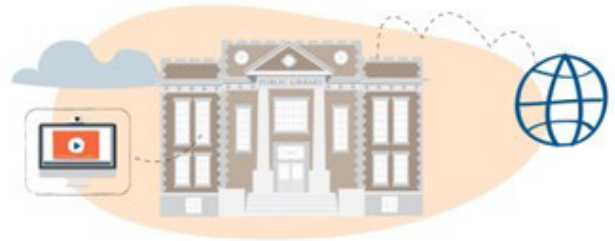


As always, if you have questions about blocking malware or other threats, our cybersecurity team is here to assist, email them at security@more.net.

REAL Impact

By [Webmaster MOREnet](#)

In collaboration with other publicly funded agencies, the Remote Electronic Access for Libraries (REAL) Program, managed by the Missouri State Library, strives to connect public libraries with each other, schools and universities through the Internet to ensure that public libraries are the center of excellence for information service to their communities. The REAL Program recently celebrated its 30th anniversary and currently supports 134 of Missouri's estimated 150



public library systems. To assist with talking points of the measurable impact of the REAL program, we have [created a flier with some highlights](#).

Revolutionizing MOREnet Missouri Libraries with REAL Funding



By [Sarah Pierce](#)

This is a continuation of the REAL project to revolutionize Missouri Libraries. You can read more about it [here](#).

MOREnet Updates Entire Network Architecture of a Six-Branch Library System in One Day

When Frankie Lea Hannan moved from the Carolina Coast to become the director of the Riverside Regional Library system in southeastern Missouri, she was excited for the challenge of leading a six-branch system that spanned three counties. Hannan and her family were delighted by the slower pace of life that southern Missouri offered, but she knew that she would inherit a varied array of responsibilities with her new position as director. She quickly learned that the six branches had outdated equipment, so she made it her first goal to improve both technology and equipment. "Our newest computers were from 2018."

As a member of the MOREnet consortium, they were able to utilize network expert, Josh Noble, to evaluate the network. "We found out that our network did not have a private side for staff and a separate side for patrons", stated Hannan. Noble confirmed that made the library system vulnerable, "...because you never know who is going to come in and connect to the network and what they're going to do once they're in." Hannan also found out that their firewalls needed to be updated, and the filters were not working as they should.

As Josh walked Frankie through the process, she learned that the library system was eligible for →

Remote Electronic Access for Libraries (REAL) funds available through funding from HB12 and the program through Missouri State Library to upgrade their technology, making the network more efficient and secure for staff and patrons. Once Frankie received board approval, Josh staged Fortinet switches, access points and firewalls for installation, while also preparing a MOREnet team to reconfigure the entirety of the six-branch system in one fell swoop.

Just before the 2024 winter holidays, the team of five MOREnet network experts began the installation process. The team started with the three largest branches and executed their plan; once everything was installed and working as it should, they moved on to the remaining three branches. The entire project was completed in one day. "It was definitely a team effort synchronizing that process with minimal downtime for the branches", stated Noble, "At the end of the day, seeing the piles of old equipment that had all been replaced was rewarding." In addition to the updated network, the REAL funding also includes five years of management, which leaves Riverside Library

with a stronger network and a safer security posture for years to come.

Prior to coming to Riverside, Director Hannan had an IT professional on staff. "I never had to think of the more intricate side of IT. Everyone at MOREnet has been amazing, always willing to step up and help us. I feel like I understand more than I did when we started." Noble is pleased with the results at Riverside, and glad they were able to utilize funds from the REAL program. "The REAL funds were a game changer. Having the budget for an install of this magnitude would be very difficult, and at best, it would have needed to happen in stages without the REAL funds." When asked if she would recommend working with MOREnet to others, Hannan was resolute in her response: "I would recommend this to anyone in a heartbeat."

Thanks to funding from HB12 and the Remote Electronic Access for Libraries (REAL) program through Missouri State Library, 133 libraries in the state of Missouri are now using new network and security solutions to improve their bandwidth and protect their locations from data breaches and cybersecurity attacks.

Reference Services for YOU: Prices & Wages by Decade

Government documents are a rich resource of historical information as they often capture a snapshot in time as well as illustrate trends over many years, especially for the economic history of prices, wages and the standard of living within the United States.

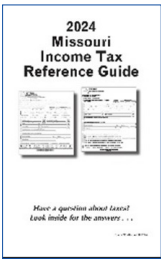
The [Prices and Wages by Decade](#) guide from the University of Missouri Libraries is an award-winning resource that easily connects patrons to consumer prices and wages reported in federal and state government resources back to the 1700s. Learning both the average prices and earnings within the same decade gives patrons a better understanding of the standard of living at a given time. If government information is unavailable, data is supplemented by additional primary sources that display average retail prices for everyday items like food, clothing, household

goods, heating fuels, transportation, medicine and service fees, as well as detailed price data for significant purchases such as a house, car or college education. Along with price data, this guide links to average wages, salaries, hours and earnings for common occupations.

Each decade's page features a variety of tables of prices and wages, such as land prices in the [1790s](#), federal government employees' salaries in the [1820s](#) and driver's licenses and car registration fees by the state in the [1910s](#), to name a few. The Prices and Wages by Decade guide is a useful resource for patrons' research questions, general interest in history or [quotable facts](#).

Questions? Contact Reference Services at (573) 751-3615, libref@sos.mo.gov or mostate.libguides.com.

Featured Government Document from the State Library



The [2024 Missouri Income Tax Reference Guide](#) released by the Missouri Department of Revenue answers a variety of state tax preparation questions, from itemized deductions to property tax credits. Discover more government publications in our [Missouri State Publications Collection](#) to share with patrons. For assistance accessing government information or publications, please contact the Reference Services staff at the [State Library](#).

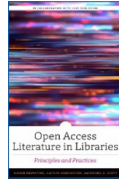
Featured Books from the State Library



Manga in Libraries



The Experimental Library



Open Access Literature in Libraries



Practical Academic Library Instruction

Discover more of our new Library Professional Development titles as well as recorded webinars, government publications and more on the [Missouri Library Staff Guide](#).

Directors and branch managers are able to sign up for a State Library card from the guide, and are encouraged to borrow items for themselves or any of their library's staff. State Library books

are also available for borrowing through both MOBIUS and WorldShare.

For assistance placing holds, requesting a card, replacing a card or for additional information, please contact Reference Services by phone, [email](#) or [chat](#). We are available Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and are always happy to help!



Around the State

St. Louis County Library Receives the 2024–25 Jerry Kline Community Impact Prize

The Jerry Kline Community Impact Prize recognizes one library each year that exemplifies libraries as vital community assets. This year, the Library Journal and the Gerald M. Kline Family Foundation recognized St. Louis County Library as the 2024–25 Jerry Kline Community Impact Prize winner. St. Louis County Library will receive \$250,000 for their vital role in their community and strong partnerships with local organizations

and government. Through their efforts and collaboration, they work continuously to best serve their patrons and community and have cemented their role as a key part of the St. Louis County community. Congratulations!

Read more about this award and SLCL's work over the years at the [Library Journal](#).

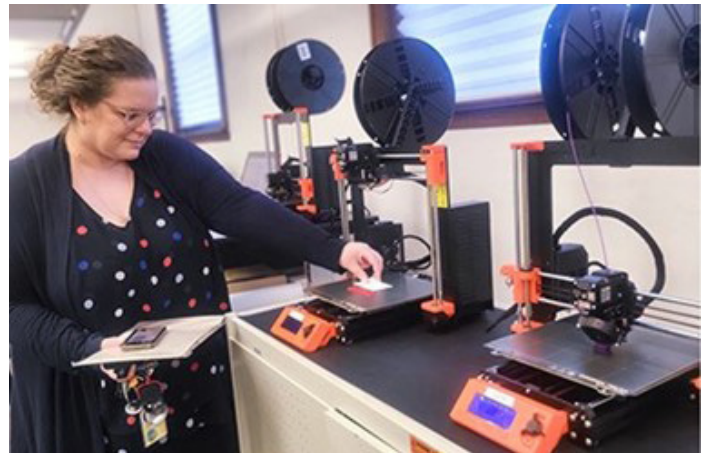


Springfield-Greene Librarian Served as One of 14 Inaugural Library Makers Ambassadors

Krystal Smith's fascination with the maker movement started with an interest in collages and music as a youth and later with crocheting and hosting Christmas Crafting Parties for friends. But her passion really took off when she landed a job in Houston, Texas at a library that included a TECHLink makerspace. There, she was able to incorporate STEAM activities into her library programming and outreach events.

When she moved to the Midtown Carnegie Branch of the Springfield-Greene County Library, her makerspace was a small room with a few pieces of equipment. An LSTA grant allowed her to purchase additional equipment, and her library's makerspace now includes a range of offerings, including two filament 3D printers, a 3D scanner, a Glowforge laser engraver, a vacuum former, a button maker, sublimation printing and various heat presses, 3 vinyl cutters, soldering, a podcast kit, a kitchen cart and digitization for VHS, 8mm and slides.

After attending several virtual events with [Library Makers](#), a national network of like-minded librarians and educators, Krystal learned about the Library Makers Ambassador program. Interested in becoming more deeply involved with the maker community, Krystal applied and was chosen as one of 14 inaugural Library Makers Ambassadors from across the country. In general, the work of a Library Makers Ambassador is to educate and connect others to the Maker movement. According to Krystal, "The expectation is that each individual will commit an average of four hours per month for 18 months on Library Makers activities by serving in two primary roles: (1) Community Connectors who are good communicators and people connectors or (2) Practitioner Specialists who are great with sharing and teaching online and in-person." Ambassadors interact with the Library Makers community via online events, blog posts, meetings and conferences.



Since completing her term as a Library Makers Ambassador, Krystal has advanced to become a member of the Library Makers Sustainability Committee. She recommends that other Missouri librarians consider applying for Ambassadors role. "The Ambassadors we are looking for come from all over the country and work in public, school and academic libraries. We are particularly recruiting Ambassadors to represent rural and tribal libraries."

Libraries across Missouri are encouraged to explore the Library Makers community and to download the free [toolkit](#) to determine whether a maker program is right for their community. For more information, contact Katie Dunne, the Missouri State Library's Youth Services Consultant, at katie.dunne@sos.mo.gov.



Welcome to New Library Directors

Please join us in welcoming some new library directors! We are excited to see all the wonderful things they'll accomplish in these roles. If you'd like to congratulate them or reach out, you can find their contact information below.

- **Cassie Hall**, Director of Douglas County Library, docopubliclibrary@gmail.com
- **Tiffany Barke**, Interim Director of St. Charles City-County Library, tbarke@stchlibrary.org
- **Dana Roberts**, Interim Director of Christian County Library, droboters@christiancountylibrary.org

- **Sharon Kirkpatrick**, Director of De Soto Public Library, skirkpatrick@dspl.missouri.org
- **Gretchen Tharp**, Interim Direction of Crawford County Library District, cclddirector@ crawfordcountylibrarydistrict.org

If you're a new library director, please reach out to mostlib@sos.mo.gov to receive an official welcome and information from the State Library to help you thrive in your new position.



Grant Opportunities

Educational Presenter Grant • **Deadline: Ongoing**

This open-call grant is a combination of the previously offered Author Visit Grant and the Bicentennial Programs Grant and replaces the two separate grants. Libraries can apply to bring an author or educational presentation to their

community. This application is open to Missouri public libraries certified to receive FY25 state aid, Missouri school libraries publicly supported and publicly controlled, and Missouri academic libraries supported publicly or privately.

Digital Imaging Grant • **Deadline: March 15**

Digital Imaging grants provide funding for eligible libraries and their partners in the cultural heritage community to carry out projects involving the selection, digital capture, storage and provision of Web access to their important historical and cultural collections. These grants support creation of digital collections at institutions while at the same time adding expanded access to those collections via the Missouri Digital Heritage database and web site. The proposal must demonstrate the unique nature of the materials to be processed, show

how they can be characterized as original source materials and explain what value or benefit will accrue to the citizens of Missouri and other patrons by making them available in digital format via the Web. Collections should be generally representative of Missouri history and culture. It is important to demonstrate what demand exists for these collections already. A Letter of Intent was due by Jan. 15, and if approved, the grant application is due by March 15, 2025.

Technology Ladder Grant • **Deadline: April 1**

Public libraries eligible to receive SFY25 state aid can apply for funds to replace older technology or purchase new technology for projects that are intricate in nature and require more than five months to complete or to develop or redesign a

website for more effective service delivery. See the award guidance for information. This grant opened on Feb. 15, and applications are due by April 1.

Professional Development Offerings

Missouri Collection Analysis Initiative

Trainings include:

- Analyzing Nonfiction Collections with TeachingBooks, March 13, 2:30 – 3:30 p.m.
- TeachingBooks Office Hours, March 20, 2:30 – 3:30 p.m.

For the complete training list, visit [Missouri Collection Analysis Initiative Webinars](#).

Amigos Library Services

Trainings include:

- Cataloging & Classification Basics, March 11, 1 – 3 p.m.
- Know & Go: Tools for Job Seekers in Libraries, March 17, 1:30 – 2:30 p.m.

For the complete training list, visit the [Amigos Continuing Education Services Schedule](#).

LibraryWorks

Trainings include:

- Challenging Employee Conversations Without Fear, March 12, 2 – 3 p.m.
- Inclusive and Impactful: Reinventing Your Library's Meeting Culture, March 13, 2 – 3 p.m.
- Improving at the Library: Using Improvisational Comedy Techniques to Improve Your Library Culture, March 20, 2 – 3 p.m.
- You Are Only Human: Retraining Your Busy Mindset to Focus on Library Needs, March 26, 2 – 3 p.m.
- Libraries Transform Lives: Creating Intentional, Life-Changing Moments, April 3, 3 – 4 p.m.

For the complete training list, visit [LibraryWorks](#).

MALA (Mid-American Library Alliance)

Trainings include:

- Social Services for Teens in the Library, March 12, 10 – 11 a.m.
- Kitchen Sink RA: Everything but the Books, March 26, 10 – 11 a.m.

For the complete training list, visit [MALAPro Professional Development](#).

Niche Academy

Trainings include:

- Advancing Title II ADA Compliance through Inclusive Engagement and Collaboration, March 12, 1 p.m.
- Developing a Mentorship and Community-building Program for Instruction Librarians, March 26, 1 p.m.
- Civic Literacy Starts at Home, March 19, 1 p.m.

For the complete training list, visit [Niche Academy Upcoming Webinars](#).

Network of the National Library of Medicine (NNLM)

Trainings include:

- How PubMed Works: Introduction, March 18, 1 – 2:30 p.m.
- Making Sense of Numbers, April 2, 1 – 2:30 p.m.

For the complete training list, visit [NNLM Training](#).

MOREnet

Trainings include:

- Introducing Raspberry Pi Into Your Learning Space (CS), March 10, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m., MOREnet Training Room – The Mill Columbia
- Easy Electronics Projects (CS), March 11, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m., MOREnet Training Room – The Mill Columbia
- Coding the Future: Empowering Young Minds With [Code.org](https://code.org) in Schools and Libraries (CS), March 12, 9 – 10 a.m.
- Word Press for Libraries, March 13, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.
- Unlocking Research and Teaching Potential with EBSCO and eBooks, March 19, 9 – 10 a.m.
- Missouri History & Genealogy, March 19, 10 – 11 a.m.
- The iPad: Your Digital Swiss Army Knife (CS), March 24, 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., MOREnet Training Room – The Mill Columbia
- Equip Students for Life With Rosen's Comprehensive Online Resources, April 2, 10 – 11 a.m.
- Basics of Adobe Photoshop, April 3, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m., MOREnet Training Room – The Mill Columbia

For the complete training list, visit the [MOREnet Training Schedule](#).

Northeast Document Conservation Center (NEDCC)

Trainings include:

- Caring for Paper-Based Collections, March 25, 1 – 3 p.m.

For the complete training list, visit [NEDCC Current Training Programs](#).

WebJunction

Trainings include:

- Supporting Communities Impacted by Incarceration through Library Services, March 13, 2 – 3 p.m.

account to access webinar archives and training in the [WebJunction Course Catalog](#).

For the complete training list, visit the [WebJunction Webinar Calendar](#). Create a free



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Missouri Secretary of State



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