Media Services Department

The Media Services Center is responsible for the acquisition of non-print materials to maintain the library’s Non-print storage space, DVDs and compact discs. Other services offered are banner and poster production, laminating, and spiral binding. Audiovisual equipment available upon request includes LCD projectors, cassette recorders, projection screens and TV/VCR/DVD units. The Media Center staff also maintains one of the library’s Interactive Video Network systems (IVN) for distance learning. Historical events and programs pertaining to the university are documented via videotaping and housed in the Center. In recent years enhancements to the Non-Print and Audiovisual Collection were made possible by funding from the Office of Title III. The Media Services Center is located on the Lower Level of the library and the hours of operation are Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

The IVN Class (Interactive Video Network)

The network provides real time infrastructure for voice and video conferencing. In addition to live interactive distance education it is teleconferencing for meetings and other academic and administrative events. The two UMES students are attending a class session in Biometry with other sites that include Appalachian, Chesapeake Biological Lab, Columbus Center, Horn Point Lab, UMCP and UMBC.

Notable Additions to the Collection


In an exciting development, Special Collections & Outreach Librarian Jennifer Neumyer was approached by Robbie Davis the Project Director, Museum on Main Street the Smithsonian Institution to include the “International Voices: Capturing Their Journeys to UMES” exhibit in their online “Stories From Main Street” website. The “International Voices” physical exhibit in the Library was the companion exhibit to the Smithsonian Institution’s main Journey Stories exhibition that was viewed in the Mostly Gallery on campus. Approximately ten of the original twelve international students featured in “International Voices” have given their permissions to have their exhibit images and text shared online for perpetuity. It is very exciting for the students to be able to share this with relatives and any future children, grandchildren.

Message from the Dean

Among the “buzz words” floating around the Frederick Douglass Library these days is New Furniture. Soft cozy chairs are available and the patrons sitting there seem relaxed as they read and study. The additional furniture has made it easier to find seats during the library’s typical busy times of the day. There will be enough seats for students attending finals and for students studying in the library. What we strive for is to increase study space while maintaining the comfortable environment students like. The library has comfortable spaces for both groups and individuals to read and explore library materials.

Greg Smith, a graduate student said, the addition will help ease crowding. “Last semester, when I studied here, I did notice it took me awhile to always find a good chair, so I think more chairs will definitely help,” Greg said. Mascot Obua, a second-year in computer science, has also had trouble finding seating while searching the online catalog. “Honestly, the task or ergonomic chair, which are on casters, adjustable, and scientifically designed to support the body are cool,” Mascot Obua said. Other students claimed they are no longer moving chairs from one floor to another to create reading spaces. “I went to two or three floors here and we were only looking for a place to sit three people and seating was unavailable,” said Megan Hamilton, an undergraduate Social Work major.

Library employees appreciate the improvements here. Ms. Ann Reed, Reference Librarian likes the flexible space that meets the shifting needs of the students during the semester. “The chairs are adequate and provide good study spaces” while Mr. Alvin Justis, Library Technician II who handles the circulation department asserts that the new furniture has noticeably enhanced the First Floor learning space. “Now the First Floor is welcoming, comfortable, more attractive and user-friendly. About 1,000 people visit FDL on every day, and that number increases to between 1,300 and 1,500 during finals, Alvin said, “It is not as empty and quiet as the old space was,” he concluded.

“We’ve been looking at it for a long time, but didn’t have the money to buy it. We need a library that has the comfort and convenience of students in mind. Come back soon!”
Congratulations 2013 Graduates

Little Known UMES History Facts

Faces In the Frederick Douglass Library
Theresa Dadson was born and educated in Ghana. After obtaining a B.A. Honors degree in Political Science in 1966, she proceeded to McGill University in Montreal, Canada, where she graduated with an MLS in May 1969. In September 1969, she was hired in Balme Library at the University of Georgia at Athens. Between 1969 and 1979 she worked as a Cataloger, Reference Librarian and finally as Africana Bibliographer. While serving as Africana Bibliographer, the British Council sponsored her for six months at Exeter University to build a basic collection on Ghana. In 1979, G.K. Hall published her book in Boston entitled, “Index to Legon Observer.” Service with the University of Maryland Eastern Shore began in 1979 as Acting Associate Librarian at the NASA Technical Library, Wallops Island in Virginia. When the contract to provide library services to NASA ended in 1980, Mrs. Dadson accepted a position at the Frederick Douglass Library as Acquisitions Librarian. In a citation awarded in April 1991, Mrs. Jessie C. Smith, then Director of the Library and later the first Dean, acclaimed, “Mrs. Dadson is the editor of the library publications, Douglass Notes, serves as Chief Bibliographer and Collection Development Officer. She has exhibited a keen sense of duty and responsibility, and has a reputation for firmness and forthrightness.”

Black History Month Celebration @ Your Library
This month was an exciting one across campus. There were a couple of special events, speakers and exhibits taking place, especially in the Frederick Douglass Library. On February 7th the festivities kicked off with a series of local author presentations and talks about the publishing world. It featured authors Alisha Broughton and Clifton Harcum (both Jefferson Award winners). Many other local authors were featured in the following weeks, including our own campus employees, Rhett Burden and Joshua Shockley. Jennifer Neumyer unveiled her latest exhibit: The Many Faces of Drama through the Decades on February 11th. It is a compilation of photographs from the 1950’s through the present from the fall productions that UMES has staged. Included also are playbills, props and costumes from the shows as well as a history of our dramatic roots. The early images come from the University Archives in the Thomas Wiles collection. Great appreciation goes out to Dr. Debra Dameron-Johnson who assisted with some of the more modern photographs. Clifton Harcum, Jennifer Neumyer and Jim Glover for some of their terrific images as well. Jennifer hopes that the exhibit will inspire visitors to make time in the future for drama in their lives. The exhibit will remain through March 2013. Finally, on February 26th we crowned our month-long celebration event; the National African American Read-In. Students read books by African American authors and for each hour they received a raffle ticket. The event lasted from 8am through 12 midnight. The top prize was a $500 book scholarship donated by Vice President Anthony Jenkins representing the office of Student Affairs. We also wish to extend our gratitude for the prizes donated by the various student organizations. I am sure many of our students will jump at the chance to grow and expand their knowledge.

Spring Festival 2013
The Reference Department was on exhibit at the UMES Spring Festival. 2013. Festival goers had the opportunity to read supporting documents that emphasized the importance of reading during the summer vacation. The research on display introduced novel ways to get books into the hands of children during summer breaks. In addition, there were articles on display that documented the impact of innovative summer reading programs and other articles stressed the importance of successful reading experiences. It was a one stop deal for spectators because they also had the opportunity to purchase books (provided by the Acquisition Department) at a very low cost.

Library Advocate
The Frederick Douglass Library salutes our library advocates/supporters. In this issue of Douglass Notes, we feature Dr. Kathryn Barrett-Gaines Associate Professor in the Department of Social Sciences.

1. Tell us why the Frederick Douglass Library (FDL) is your best friend. I am a busy fish in a small pond at the library here on campus. I am a busy fish in a small pond that is connected to the entire ocean. At the Frederick Douglass Library, I have so many resources ready to help me find any book I want, from anywhere in the world. They find them in our library, and deliver them to me at the office. They find them in other libraries in the University System of Maryland. They find them in libraries in other universities in other states. They find them everywhere, and don’t stop until they do. I can get any book I want!

2. Why do you support the Library? I support our library and all libraries because the existence of libraries in the United States is the primary reason why the United States gained an educated population so early in its history. Public libraries and public schools have been the foundation of our freedom and democracy. Books are the key to life, liberty, and happiness. A college library is just that, a college library. Our libraries should be noisy with the business of reading.”

3. How has the library helped you do your job? I am a writer, a researcher, a comedian, and a teacher. I am in the business of ideas and knowledge. The library is in the same business. We are partners. I can’t do what I do without the library.

4. What are the top three library services you use? I regularly search the online catalogue trolling for new books about all the things I love: Uganda, East Africa, Washington DC, and funny people. When I find books I want, I request them online from other USM campuses. If I can’t find them in the USM libraries, I request them online via Inter Library Loan.

5. What will the library look like in the near and distant future? I pray daily to the library gods that the library will not give up on paper books. I pray that the library will not turn into a café or video game room. I want the books and shelves and Library of Congress system to stay the same. I also pray that librarians light up on noise. Libraries should be noisy with the business of finding knowledge. Knowledge can be noisy.

6. How do you describe the FDL to others? My library is my portal to every library in the world. My library is my connection to every cool idea ever thought, every memorable word ever spoken, and every interesting person worth knowing.

7. What information seeking/using advice would you offer to today’s students? Never search just the UMES catalog, always search the whole UMES catalog, and the WorldCat database. Those searches will get you to books everywhere, all the books in print in England and in many other languages. Frederick Douglass Library is not the books inside it. FDL is the way for you to get books from any campus in USM, or in the world.

8. What's the best information advice you ever got? All you need is a bike and a library card.

9. What do you do for fun? I write down ideas that I have about me and my dog and other funny creatures I meet. I plan the next column, blog, book, or email that I will write. I am a writer and a comedian. I travel to warm places so I can be outside. I travel to travel to warm places so I can be outside. I travel to travel to warm places so I can be outside.

Answer to Trivia
I am Art Shell. Visit the Frederick Douglass Library’s Archive/Special Collections Department to find out Little Known UMES History Facts.