



LIBRARY UPDATE

Number 41

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Library Receives Stimulus Funds for Learning Commons

Walker Library has begun to implement its Learning Commons Project.

This collaborative learning space is supported by funds received from state-appropriated stimulus money.

The commons will contain movable furniture, allowing students to create their own learning environments. The area will also be loaded with computer equipment including laptops, desktops, big screens, projectors, and power and data ports. Its location, close to the Reference Desk, will allow students to get research help while they study.

Even with 24/7 access to information, students still tell us they need a retreat from their noisy dorm or apartment and must have a place that is conducive to studying either alone or with a group. This commons area will provide a

special space that will enhance student learning.

The first step of the Commons Project, removing some of the reference collection, is underway now. Many books were moved into the general collection on other floors. Others that were no longer needed were given to TBR institutions and recycled. We have removed 1.2 miles of materials!

The next phase of the project, removing whole sections of shelving from the space on the first floor, will be completed by the time the spring semester starts. Faculty and students will notice a lot of activity this spring, when the space will be under construction to accommodate more technology and different furniture.



Other areas of the library may also be changed in the future. For example, presentation practice rooms may be added for students. These rooms will be equipped with cameras and computer equipment, allowing students to view and work on their presentations.

American History in Video



Walker Library has thousands of books and articles to help with your history research. However, we also have a great way to connect you and your students to history by watching how it happened.

American History in Video is a Web site housing a collection of over 2,000 hours of video and more than 5,000 different titles. All video can be streamed right to your computer. The collection includes documentaries from the Discovery Channel, History Channel, and A&E as well as old newsreel and government films.

The collection contains video that is searchable by historical eras, events, people, and places. Transcripts of documentaries are available to print, and hyperlinks to the video can be added to PowerPoint presentations.

To access this Web site, go to the library home page, library.mtsu.edu, and under Research Gateway click on Databases a-z, then scroll down to American History in Video. As always, you can get help from a librarian at library.mtsu.edu/help or stop by the reference desk.

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My favorite thing about James E. Walker Library is that it offers many places to study. Students can have a quiet room with a desk, a comfortable chair, or a closed desk where they can focus on studying. The student can choose which is better. —Elonic, junior



Knowledge Unbound.

Ebrary is a database with the latest and greatest books from top academic publishers. You can find books on anthropology, business, religion, social science, medicine, and more. The collection is constantly updated so all the books are new.

The ebrary reader is simple to use and allows you to do quick skimming, search for key words, jump chapters, or flip pages. Here are some other things you can do with ebrary:

- 1. Highlight text and take notes.**
Create a bookshelf (if needed) to save and organize your research.
- 2. Use InfoTools.** Link out to other online resources to expand your research.

- 3. Print pages, and copy and paste text.** Ebrary provides automatic citations with a URL hyperlink back to the source.
- 4. Manage, archive, and share research.** Organize your bookshelf and e-mail folders to peers.

You can also use the optional plug-in or Unity Reader, which offers added functionality. You launch it by clicking on the ebrary Reader button.

Ebrary's collection is cutting edge and current; you can read it on your computer, and with features like automatic citation you can really get into the text.

To find this valuable resource go to the library home page, library.mtsu.edu, and under Research Gateway click on Databases a-z, then select E and then scroll to ebrary. As always, you can get help from a librarian at library.mtsu.edu/help.

ADVANCEMENT CORNER

Library needs

- 1. Books**
- 2. Computers for students**
- 3. Projector and screen for student presentations**
- 4. Faculty support funds**
- 5. Laptops for students**
- 6. DVD players**
- 7. Electronic resources/databases**

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or contact
Kristen Keene at
(615) 898-5376 or
kkeene@mtsu.edu.

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James E. Walker Library (MTSU)



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