

## James E. Walker



# LIBRARY UPDATE

Number 35

Summer 2009

## LIBRARIAN HONORED FOR WOMEN'S STUDIES RESOURCE



Ken Middleton, user services librarian, is the recipient of two prestigious awards in recognition of his significant contributions to the fields of library and

information science and women's studies.

ABC-CLIO will present Middleton with the 2009 ABC-CLIO Online History Award for his professional achievement in online historical reference. The ABC-CLIO award is a \$3,000 cash prize and a citation.

Middleton also is the recipient of the 2009 Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) Women's Studies Section (WSS) Award for Significant Achievement in Women's Studies Librarianship. The WSS award is a \$1,000 prize and a plaque. Middleton will receive both awards during the 2009 American Library Association (ALA) Annual Conference in Chicago in July.

The awards are for Middleton's development of Discovering American

Women's History Online, a Web-based historical research tool. Middleton's Web site was selected for its important role as a comprehensive gateway documenting the history of women in the United States. From this centralized resource, site users are offered numerous access points such as subject headings, formats, and other resource discovery features to uncover primary documents in more than 40 formats, including photographs and artifacts. The breadth of the collections available through Discovering American Women's History Online covers all 50 states and dates ranging from the 1600s to the 2000s.

Middleton earned his master's degree in library science in 1992 from the University of Tennessee. He joined the library faculty at MTSU in 1993. He developed a strong interest in women's history while completing his master's degree in history at MTSU. Middleton provides reference and research service at the Walker Library and also teaches library instruction classes for women's history courses.



In honor of Scholars Week at MTSU, the library celebrated MTSU faculty authors with a display of their publications. Included were academic textbooks, novels, music CDs, and DVDs authored by a diverse group of MTSU faculty members.

Scholars Week has become an anticipated campus event each spring as MTSU scholars eagerly share their research findings as well as their enthusiasm for doing research.

Scholars Week continues to be our annual forum to recognize the excellent research that our faculty and students do. The number and variety of research projects presented is always quite impressive.

Many of the students who participate locally also report on their scholarship at regional and national meetings within their areas of study.

## RESEARCH COACH



Did you know the library offers one-on-one research help for students? Research Coach is a service offered by librarians that gives students an opportunity to seek in-depth help at all steps in the research process.

Coach-librarians provide 30-minute private sessions to help students brainstorm for topics, select and cite resources, create bibliographies, and obtain a deeper understanding of the information-seeking process.

More and more students continue to use Research Coach each semester. Last year, 47 students signed up for the service. This year, 76 students used Research Coach to help with their projects and papers. The service may be offered year-round.

## ADVANCEMENT CORNER

The Book Honor Program provides needed resources for Walker Library. Gifts of \$50 to the Book Honor Program go directly toward purchasing books for the library. Each book purchased will contain a special bookplate with the individual's and donor's names, and an acknowledgement of each gift will be sent to the person being recognized.

If you would like to be a part of this or other initiatives to strengthen education at MTSU, please visit our Web site at <http://library.mtsu.edu> or contact Kristen Keene, external relations specialist at [kkeene@mtsu.edu](mailto:kkeene@mtsu.edu), 615-898-5376.



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*"What greater or better gift can we offer  
than to teach and instruct our youth?"*  
— Cicero

## LIBRARY LEADS FACULTY WORKSHOPS

When the Learning, Teaching, & Innovative Technologies Center (LTIITC) needed to deliver a hands-on workshop on student research they turned to librarians Mary Ellen Pozzebon, Electronic Resources, Jason Vance, Information Literacy, and Kristen West, Instruction, to lead three workshops for the center's First Tuesday Information Literacy series.

The first workshop **Beyond the Research Paper: Developing Alternative Assignments to Teach Library Research**, was held in February and focused on strategies for incorporating research assignments into courses. The second session, **When Wikipedia Fails: Teaching Students to Evaluate Information**, was held in March. The focus was on teaching students to evaluate information sources they encounter during the writing and

research process. Strategies showed how to balance students' increased access to online information with critical thinking about sources, context, and quality. The final workshop of the series was **Copy and Paste Plagiarism: Promoting the Ethical Use of Information** held in April. This session gave faculty preemptive strategies in undergraduate writing assignments.

With information becoming accessible from more and more sources, students' time shifts from finding information to evaluating and using it effectively and ethically.

Library faculty teach research skills to classes, no matter the discipline, and help faculty build research components into their courses, all of which boost students' critical thinking skills and their ability to form valid conclusions based on reliable information.



### EXL CLASS

The library taught an EXL class this spring. Students earned one hour of credit and honed their research and analysis skills. The class met on campus and online.

Students reviewed services offered by Walker Library and library services offered at other institutions. The students

led research projects to assess library services and facilities, and from those surveys and observations they made recommendations for practical changes to services offered to the MTSU community.

The class was part of the library's revisioning project.



### WHERE ARE THE NEWSPAPERS?

You may have noticed that the newspaper wall in the Periodicals area is looking a little bare. Only the *Nashville Tennessean* and *Murfreesboro Daily News Journal* are now maintained in the hanging racks. The print copies of other local, regional, national, and international titles have been cancelled as a budget measure and because we have many titles available online.

An easy way to determine what newspapers are available is to go to our **Newspapers** subject page or view our list of newspaper electronic holdings on our **Journal Locator**.

Good databases for doing topic searches in newspapers include **America's Newspapers** and **Lexis Nexis**.