



**MINNESOTA STATE UNIVERSITY, MANKATO**  
LIBRARY SERVICES

# Library Newsletter

Spring 2024 Vol.29 Issue 2



2024 Distinguished  
Faculty Scholar

2024 MSU Authors  
Reception

Open Education  
Practice Collaboration

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**Photo Cover - MSU Authors Reception**

# 2024 MSU Authors Reception

The 2024 MSU Authors Reception was held on Tuesday, April 2, 2024, at the Memorial Library in the Marilyn J. Lass Center for Minnesota Studies.

This year's event honored 22 faculty, staff, and emeriti authors who had written and/or edited books with publication dates between March 2022 and March 2024. The program included a welcome from Library Services Department Chair, Casey Duevel, and an overview of the collection by Dean of Library and Learning, Chris Corley. President Edward Inch gave a formal address and presented the certificates and awards to the attending MSU authors.

The 2024 MSU Author honorees are:

**Emily Boyd**, Sociology  
**Ron Browne**, Elementary and Literacy Education  
**Heidi Wall Burns**, University Advising  
**Kirsti Cole**, English  
**Ashley N. Flitter**, English  
**Rachael Hanel**, Creative Writing  
**Laura Harrison**, Gender and Women's Studies  
**Elizabeth Harsma**, IT Solutions  
**Aaron Hoy**, Sociology  
**Tom Inglot**, Political Science  
**Andrew P. Johnson**, Elementary

and Literacy Education  
**Jason A. Kaufman**, Educational Leadership  
**David Kimori**, Elementary and Literacy Education  
**Leslie Locke**, Educational Leadership  
**James (JP) Mackey**, Creative Production  
**Michael Manderfeld**, IT Solutions  
**Carrie Lewis Miller**, IT Solutions  
**Eric Sprankle**, Psychology  
**Sarah Tahtinen-Pacheco**, K-12 & Secondary Programs  
**Richard Terrill**, English  
**Kyle Ward**, History  
**Gwen Westerman**, English

The MSU Authors Collection is an important part of the University Archives as it documents the intellectual heritage of the University and contributions by faculty, staff, students, and alumni to contemporary scholarship. Information on the works by all the MSU Authors can be found in [Cornerstone](#). If you are a Minnesota State Mankato faculty or staff member who has written and/or edited a book, please contact the University Archives at [archives@mnsu.edu](mailto:archives@mnsu.edu) so we can add you to our collection and to the list for the 2026 MSU Authors Reception.

# Open Education Practice Collaboration



Minnesota State University, Mankato librarian Jess Schomberg collaborated with Education professor Dr. Kim Johnson to complete certification in Open Education Practices through the [Open Education Network](#). This certificate program provided “formal training in open educational practices grounded in the principles of social justice, a community of peers, and expert instructors with the goal of transforming learning to be more accessible and inclusive.”

Through this program they learned about open educational practices (OEP), copyright, Creative Commons licensing, accessibility, and student empowerment and agency. Their focus was on modifying an assignment in Dr. Kim Johnson’s SPED 406 course, Strategies for Teaching Learners with Special Needs, Reading & Writing.

They modified a vocabulary lesson to move away from using a standard textbook and an assignment that only the professor saw, to

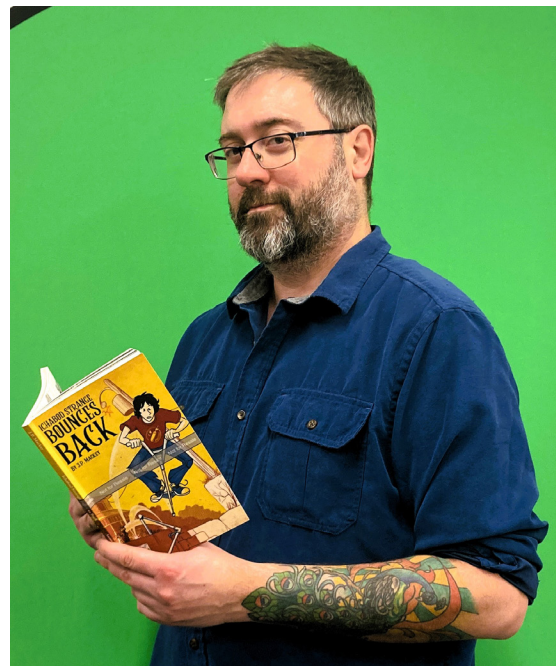
instead use openly available materials and renewable assignments. [Renewable assignments](#) allow students to share what they learn with the world.

As Dr. Johnson teaches students both at Minnesota State University, Mankato and the University of Makeni in Sierra Leone, there will be opportunities for students to share what they learn with each other across continents. Students at both universities will design a vocabulary lesson using evidence-based practices learned from the vocabulary module. Through sharing their lesson drafts and receiving feedback from instructors and peers, students at both schools can engage in cross-cultural learning. This allows students to have global impact on the profession during their own learning process, as well as giving them peer-reviewed demonstrations of their teaching effectiveness to share with potential employers.

Now that the certificate program is complete, work will continue to redesign other assignments in courses that Dr. Johnson teaches. They will be posting lesson plans and background information about pedagogy, reading methods, disability awareness, open education practices, and information literacy to a publicly accessible website. Because open education practices are built on a model of sharing resources, the work they are doing will benefit learners both locally and globally.

## Mackey Author Talk

**James P. Mackey**, who goes by the name JP Mackey as an author, is a Graphic Arts Specialist with Creative Productions at Minnesota State University, Mankato. On March 20 he presented at Memorial Library a Minnesota State University, Mankato Author Talk. At the event Mackey discussed his newest book, *Ichabod Strange Bounces Back*, which came out in 2023. During the program Mackey shared with the audience his artistic processes and where he gets his inspiration. The author also talked about the benefits and challenges of self-publishing.



## 2024 Distinguished Faculty Scholar Awarded



Jess Schomberg was recognized as one of this year's Distinguished Faculty Scholar Recipients, along with two other faculty members. The awardees were acknowledged at the April 22 Celebration of Excellence event, part of Minnesota State Mankato's Research Month.

Distinguished Faculty Scholars are tenured

professors whose body of scholarship and current level of scholarly achievement warrant distinction within the university community. The Center for Excellence in Scholarship and Research (CESR) and the Faculty Research Committee are responsible for selecting the Distinguished Faculty Scholars annually. Once named a Distinguished Faculty Scholar, the recipient maintains the distinction for the remainder of their tenure at Minnesota State University, Mankato.

Professor Schomberg's scholarship is focused on disability and improving the accessibility of libraries as workplaces and places of learning. They have co-authored a book on the topic, and their work has been published in journals including *Library Trends*, *Journal of Library Administration*, and *College & Research Libraries*. They have also worked with colleagues in Library Services to incorporate the results of their research into making the department's spaces and services more accessible.

## Symposium Honors Legacy of William E. Lass

The University Archives and Southern Minnesota Historical Center co-sponsored the William E. Lass Minnesota History Symposium, which was hosted by the History Program on April 5th. The free day-long event celebrated Dr. Lass's life and commitment to the history of Minnesota. The Symposium was open to the public and held in Ostrander Auditorium in the Centennial Student Union.

Presentations included a Welcome address given by Professors Dr. Lori Lahlum and Dr. Gwen Westerman. In the afternoon Dr. Annette Atkins gave the Keynote speech, *I'm an Historian: What's my job*. The Symposium concluded with an evening Memorial to celebrate the life and honor Professor Lass's legacy and career.



## Harry Ritchie Art Exhibit



From late January through March 15, 2024, Library Services hosted the student art exhibit, *The Success of the Four Time Keepers (The Failure of Harry Ritchie)* on the second floor of Memorial Library outside the Marilyn J. Lass Center. Featured in the display were four figures designed by Harry Ritchie. The items were created from found objects in his studio, and Ritchie described his creations as bizarre, beautiful, wonderful creatures who are tormented in the present. Also included with the display were photographs that illuminate Ritchie's artistic narrative. Ritchie received his Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) from Minnesota State University, Mankato in 2022. He is currently pursuing a Master of Arts in the MSU Art Program.

# Empower Your Students with Library Tutorials: Boost Research Skills and Save Time

Are you looking for ways to equip your students with the research abilities they need to succeed in your courses? Library tutorials offer a valuable solution, providing students with the essential skills they need to navigate the information landscape, saving your valuable time and meeting students' individual needs. These user-friendly resources offer a variety of learning styles and topics, making research approachable at a student's own pace.

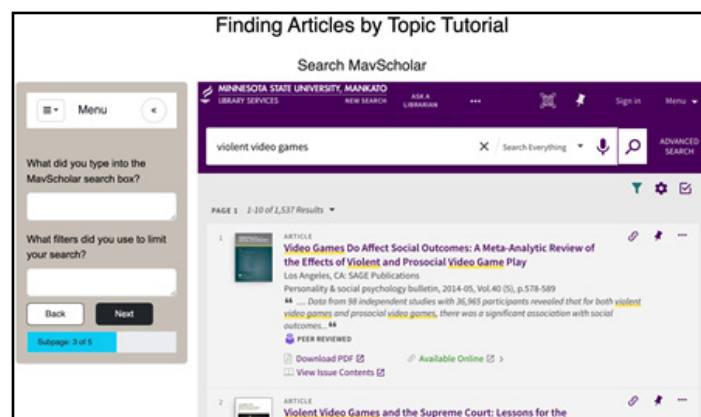
Our library tutorials come in engaging formats such as:

- [Video Tutorials](#): Short, informative videos provide a clear visual guide to navigating library resources. Students can learn how to search for articles, narrow a topic, and read scholarly articles.
- [Text and Image Instructions](#): Detailed webpages with clear guidance and screenshots take students step-by-step through essential research skills. These tutorials are perfect for learners who prefer written explanations and visual aids.
- [Interactive Tutorials](#): These dynamic tutorials engage students with fill-in-the-blank exercises while searching databases, watching videos, or reading webpages. Examples include [Confirmation Bias](#) and [Finding Journal Articles by Topic](#).

You can view a full list of available tutorials [by topic](#) or [by format](#).

You can easily integrate these tutorials directly into your D2L Brightspace course! Simply link or embed the tutorials into your course content. This seamless integration allows students to access the resources at their own pace, exactly when they need them most. By incorporating library tutorials, you empower your students to become self-sufficient researchers, ultimately enhancing the quality of their work and enriching their classroom experience.

To learn more about including library tutorials in your course, contact your [subject librarian](#) or [request a customized tutorial!](#)



Example slide from interactive tutorial



## Textbook Heroes

This semester, Library Services and IT Solutions selected four faculty members that have contributed to textbook affordability and equitable classroom practices by reevaluating their course materials. These instructors have identified library or Open Educational Resources (OER) that are free for students to use and support the academic rigor of their courses. This month, we thank these faculty members for helping students have a more equitable and affordable experience in their courses!

Thank you to our textbook heroes!

**[Dr. Jeff Pribyl](#)** (OER) - Chemistry

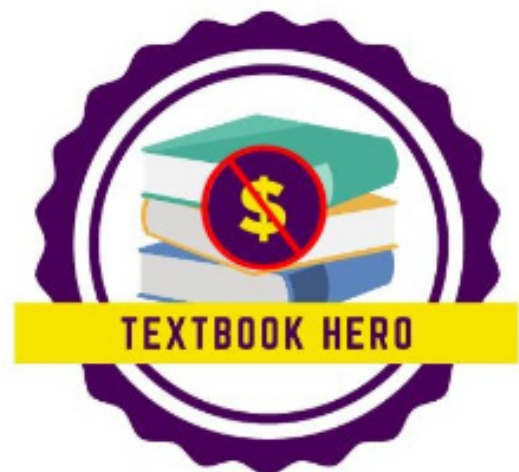
**[Dr. Yalda Hamidi](#)** (OER and Library Resources) - Gender and Women's Studies

**[Dr. Keenan Hartert](#)** (OER) - Biology

**[Dr. Ron Ulseth](#)** (Library Resources) - Iron Range Engineering

Are you our next Textbook Hero? Contact

Carrie Miller ([carrie.miller@mnsu.edu](mailto:carrie.miller@mnsu.edu)) or Heidi Southworth ([heidi.southworth@mnsu.edu](mailto:heidi.southworth@mnsu.edu)) and let us know how you are implementing textbook affordability measures in your courses! Or let us know if you want to get started on your textbook affordability journey! You can also contact your [subject librarian](#) to get started today!





## Podcast Studio Now Available

A brand-new podcast studio is now open to students to record audio content. The studio, which is free for students to use, features state of the art podcasting equipment, including microphones, headphones, and a RodeCaster soundboard. Students can bring their MavCard to the Library Circulation Desk, located on the main floor, to check out the room key. The podcast studio can be [reserved](#) for up to three hours.

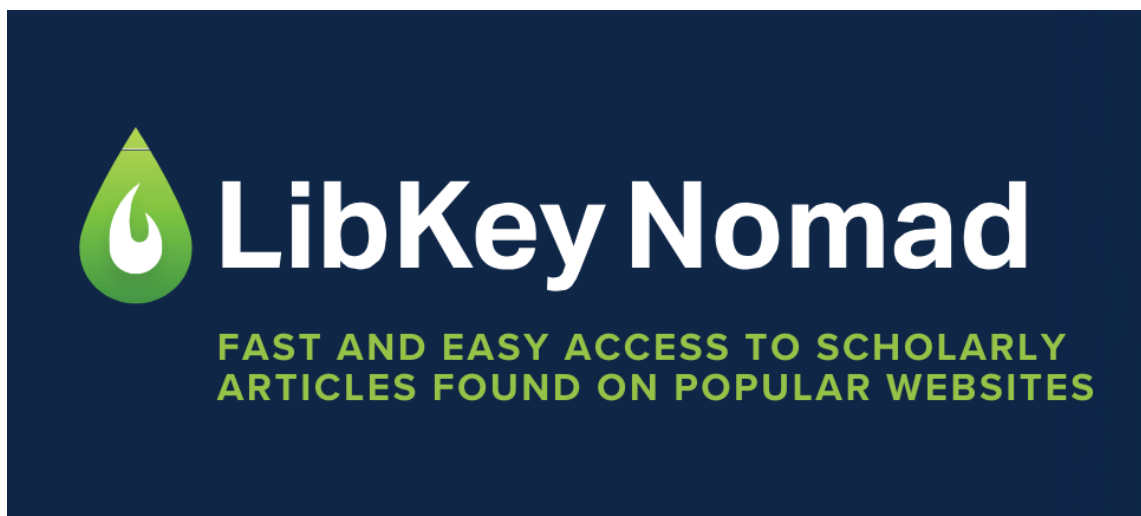
Interested in podcasting on location? A [podcasting kit](#) can be checked out for one week from the ERC in Memorial Library.

## Minnesota Libraries Preserve Access to 500,000 Books

Memorial Library at Minnesota State University, Mankato is one of 24 academic libraries in Minnesota working to preserve access to nearly 500,000 rarely held books. The initiative is known as the Minnesota Shared Print Program. It began in 2022 and is comprised of participating libraries agreeing to retain books in their collection which are identified as important scholarly resources. These books are in demand but scarcely available within Minnesota and the United States.

Each library is committed to retaining specific books for an initial holding period of 20 years, which can be renewed. Library users can request any of these books through the interlibrary loan service. The program is administered and paid for by Minitex, a division of the University of Minnesota Libraries directly funded by the Minnesota Office of Higher Education.





## LibKey: Fast Access to Online Articles

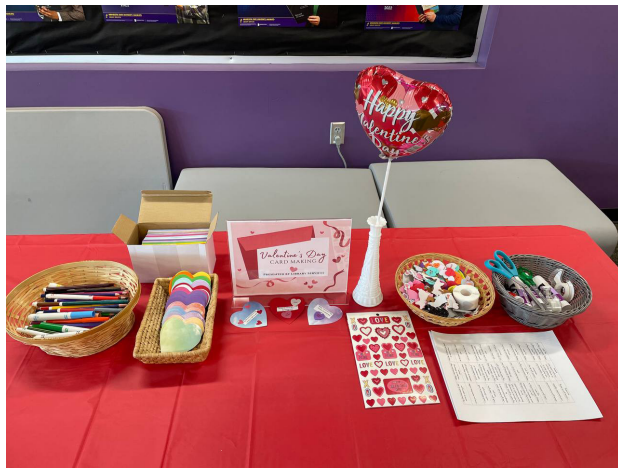
[LibKey Nomad](#) is a browser extension that helps connect researchers to library-provided journal articles and eBooks found on non-library websites, including PubMed, Google Scholar, and even Wikipedia.com. It has been designed to reduce your steps to connecting with full text content. To get started, download the extension via the [Third Iron website](#). The extension is available for Chrome, Edge, Firefox, Brave, Vivaldi, and Safari browsers.

Once you have installed the browser extension and associated it with Minnesota State University, Mankato, you will see the Libkey Nomad icon button when you encounter articles available through Library Services. This icon will then provide one-click access to your discovered online resources. For more information visit the MSU [Library Guide for LibKey](#) and Third Iron Products. For questions about the LibKey service contact [eraccess@mnsu.libanswers.com](mailto:eraccess@mnsu.libanswers.com).

## Database Spotlight: Mintel Academic

Looking for help developing an advertising campaign? Seeking insights into consumer behavior? Trying to identify long-term marketing trends? Check out [Mintel Academic](#) which can be found on the Database A-Z page. Mintel Academic offers market research on consumer products and services in over 15 categories including food, beauty, retail & apparel, pets, travel, and technology. Searches can be filtered by Category, Region, Trend Drivers, and Demographics. In addition, researchers have the option to browse special topics and trends. For questions about Mintel contact Lisa Baures, College of Business Liaison Librarian, [lisa.baures@mnsu.edu](mailto:lisa.baures@mnsu.edu).

# Valentines Day Card Making



Library Services helped students share heartfelt messages. From February 12th through February 14th a Valentine's Day card making activity was available on the first floor of Memorial Library. Students stopped by to make over 200 cards to share with friends and family.



Welcome to  
**YOUR Library**



## Published by

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