“We shouldn't teach great books; we should teach a love of reading.”  --B. F. Skinner

**MUS Library Online**

The library staff has been busy revamping the MUS library website recently, in anticipation of the soon-to-be-released, new and improved school website at musowls.org. Instead of listing databases only by their names and expecting students to “sink or swim,” we’ve also made lists that sort them by the subjects they cover and the type of information they include. These charts will be displayed in drop-down menus and will point students to the exact databases they need for a particular class or project.

A third drop-down menu lists the Class Research Guides that librarians construct for specific projects when a teacher bring the class in for a help session. Other new features of our website include a Faculty Services page, a Help Desk with FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions), and library blogs, wikis, and forums. The recently posted Quick Guide to Bibliographic Citations (under the MLA Style heading) will also be included.

For a preview of the coming website, go to the current library homepage and click on “About the Library.” A rough draft of the new structure and features is already there.

**Library Blog**

Nancy Arant has set up a library blog geared towards students. It highlights new books, recent award winners, and reading recommendations. Comments by teachers or staff are always welcome, and please encourage your students to post their thoughts as well. Email Nancy Arant if you have any questions. Access the blog through the library website or at http://muslibrary.wordpress.com.

**READ Posters**

This READ poster was created by Terry Balton’s Digital Design Class and is similar to what the library can do with our new software. We have already photographed the football and basketball teams, and we plan on getting pictures of the other MUS teams. If you coach or sponsor a group and would be interested in creating a poster, email Bonnie Barnes.

**New Passwords**

New passwords have been established this year for all of our subscription databases. Email the library for that information or pick up a databases handout at the front desk.
New Arrivals

John Harkins’s interview on WKNO’s Real People with Bill Waters, which aired January 12, 2007, is now available in our video collection. The interview focuses on Dr. Harkins’s role as president of the West Tennessee Historical Society.

New Databases

The library has subscribed to several new databases from Oxford University Press this year. American National Biography includes Teacher's Guide and Research Ideas and explores American history through the lives of the men and women who shaped the nation. Dictionary of National Biography is the British counterpart to ANB and includes 50,000 biographies. Grove Art Online comprises the entire texts of The Dictionary of Art and The Oxford Companion to Western Art, articles, over 3,000 thumbnail art images and line drawings, and extensive image links. Grove Music Online comprises the full text of The New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians, The New Grove Dictionary of Opera, and The New Grove Dictionary of Jazz. They require the same username and password from home as most of our other databases. To view the new additions, check the library website.

Memphis Soul

The influence of Memphis on our musical heritage is evident in all genres of sound and continues to capture the world’s attention. In the lighted display case, the library will soon exhibit the school’s connections to Memphis music. Here are a few books illustrating Memphis’ far-reaching role in music history:

Big Star: The Short Life, Painful Death, and Unexpected Resurrection of the Kings of Power Pop by Rob Janovanovic (782.42166 J86b). This is the history of Big Star, a Memphis band that had little commercial success, yet influenced bands such as R.E.M., the Bangles, Wilco, Jeff Buckley, and Garbage. Cheap Trick’s version of their song, “In the Street” became the theme song for That ’70s Show. Band members included Andy Hummel ‘69 and Chris Bell ‘69. John Fry ‘62 recorded their music at Ardent Studios.

I Was There When It Happened: My Life with Johnny Cash by Marshall Grant (781.64209 G762i). Marshall Grant began working with Cash as a bass player when Cash’s career began in Memphis.


The Memphis Blues Again: Six Decades of Memphis Music Photographs by Ernest C. Withers (782.42164 W824M). Particularly the 1950s, 1960s, and 1970s, these photographs take you down Beale Street, inside clubs, music halls, auditoriums, recording studios, and churches in search of the soul of Memphis music.

It Came From Memphis by Robert Gordon (781.64097 G664I). Robert Gordon (MUS class of 1979) explores the strange cultural influences of Memphis rock and roll. Unlike most books about Memphis music, this one doesn’t focus on Elvis or Sun Studios, but on the musicians playing in their shadows.

MUS Studio Band

The MUS Studio Band CD is now available at the library. Listen to the tracks students recorded in John Hiltonsmith’s class last year and encourage your students to check it out.