

Meet this issue's Featured Library Employee for the Missouri Library Association, Peter Neely!

What is your name, your library, and your role at the library?

My name is Peter Neely and I work at Stafford Library, Columbia College and my official title is the Digital Services Librarian, although I perform a variety of other tasks as well!

What originally got you interested in working at a library?

A passion for learning about a wide variety of topics..

What keeps you coming back every day?

I quickly found that I enjoy helping students find obscure resources for their research, assist in getting their papers to print correctly, or simply help users connect to our resources so that they can complete their assignments and succeed. Seeing their appreciation is satisfaction. I also enjoy my coworkers. We are a small team, but work well together!

What's challenging about your work?

Working with a small team means we all have multiple tasks and filling multiple roles that we are juggling at the same time. It is genuinely a unique challenge to ensure we are providing a quality service to our community with the resources we have available.

Has your work made you either curious, or passionate, or awestruck about something?

It's old news by now, but I am continually impressed by how quickly the academic environment has changed since the COVID-19 pandemic.

Who is one of your mentors?

One of my recurring patrons is an inspiration. I enjoy helping this older gentleman and he has such great wisdom to share that sits outside of academia and it is refreshing to see things through the eyes of a student in his mid-70s and learn their understanding and hear their experiences.

What have you read or watched lately that you enjoyed?

I am a big fan of local folklore and history of the geography and people of the Ozarks and just finished reading several Vance Randolph books on the subject.

Is there anything else you'd like to share with us?

I am a life-long resident of Columbia, Missouri and spend my free time either hanging out on the trails with my dog or collecting and reading tabletop roleplaying books.

