Transform Your Life: Celebrate National Library Week!

Come lurk at the LARC during National Library Week! NLW is about appreciating how much books and libraries impact and transform us. MACC’s library is more than a place to study and do homework. Think of the library as a portal to a vast universe just waiting to be explored. Each book you open is a new world just waiting to be discovered!

MACC’s library has approximately 20,000 books in its collection - that’s a lot of new worlds to explore! But the adventure doesn’t stop there, because with MOBIUS you have free access to more than 60 million items from libraries across the state and beyond. This leaves only one question: Which one are you going to read first?

NLW is observed in April and is sponsored by the American Library Association. NLW was first observed in 1958, its theme was Wake Up and Read. This year’s theme? You guessed it! Libraries Transform. As Ray Bradbury once said, “Without libraries there would be no past. Without libraries there will be no future.”

MACC’s library and academic resource center offers a number of ways for you to transform your life. Places to study, computers to do your homework, tutors to help you overcome academic difficulties, friendly staff, and of course, millions of books to explore.

How Libraries Transformed Ray Bradbury

A world in which firefighters burn books instead of putting fires out would not exist if it were not for libraries. Ray Bradbury, one of America’s greatest storytellers, wrote Fahrenheit 451 in the basement of the college library at UCLA. Though he never attended college, he went to the library and “read every book there.” He visited the library three nights a week for ten years, at which point he “graduated from the library” at the age of 28.

Bradbury attributed his successful writing career to libraries, saying they were the “center of my life.” The very reason that he wrote at all he claimed, was because he was “the librarian.” Even before he became a renowned writer, Bradbury believed books to be “more important than anything else."

Libraries transformed Ray Bradbury into an award winning writer whose works have in turn transformed and inspired generations of men, women, and children around the world.

“THERE ARE WORSE CRIMES THAN BURNING BOOKS. ONE OF THEM IS NOT READING THEM.” - Ray Bradbury

Check out the LARC’s Transformer at MACC - Moberly!

Participate in the Jack Conroy Passport Scavenger Hunt! Details inside.

Don’t Forget Finals!
Look inside to see how the LARC can help you prepare!
Student Responses

“How has MACC’s Library transformed you?”

MACC’s library has transformed me into a more focused intellectual. I have gained better time management, problem solving, leadership, and even communication skills.

Kevin Alejandro Mosquera
MACC - Moberly

“I have started to print assignments in the library. If I have to print it, I do it there. I browse the bookshelves sometimes in my free time just to see what they have.”

Rose Grenke
MACC - Moberly

“[The LARC] helps me a lot because I am a person with a lot of questions and the tutors are always there to help with school work and technology issues.”

Tameka Stennis
MACC - Columbia

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Tameka Stennis
MACC - Columbia

“The Library has been very resourceful toward my college career. The tutors are helpful and encouraging.”

Hassan Johnson
MACC - Columbia

Who Was Jack Conroy and How Did He Transform Literature?

Jack Conroy was born in the Monkey’s Nest coal mining camp near Moberly, Missouri on December 5, 1898. His father and two brothers lost their lives to the mine, but Conroy’s mother made sure it did not claim her last son. Little did folks imagine that this boy from Monkey’s Nest would one day transform into the “Sage of Moberly.”

Throughout his life, Conroy worked a variety of jobs in steel mills, factories, digging trenches, and riding freight trains. Writing and literature, however, remained his lifelong passion. As a child he started a small paper in the mining camp called the Monkey Nest Monitor. As an adult he founded The Anvil - one of the most influential literary magazines of the 1930s. He later founded The Rebel Poet. Through his literary magazines he came to mentor, inspire, and publish many young writers who went on to become famous: Tennessee Williams, James Farrell, Langston Hughes and numerous more. He was also good friends with Studs Terkel, Woody Guthrie, and the poet, Gwendolyn Brooks.

The well-known poet Gwendolyn Brooks presents Jack Conroy with the State of Illinois Literary Times Award in 1967.
Conroy lived in Chicago from 1938–1942. While there, he worked on the Federal Writers Project, along with editing *The New Anvil*, and writing book reviews for newspapers. In fact, he was such a prolific reviewer of books that editors had to publish his reviews under multiple names, so that two or three reviews could appear in the same issue, under his own name, as well as Tim Brennan and John Norcross. Conroy, it seems, could be three people at once!

Conroy published numerous works, but his most famous piece of writing remains, *The Disinherited*. Since it was first published in 1933 it has been reprinted multiple times and translated into seven different languages. The book drew on real life experiences and portrayed Depression Era life in vivid detail. *The Disinherited* was a strong piece of proletarian literature that helped establish, not only the genre, but also Conroy’s place within it. It is required reading in many American literature and social history courses in colleges today.

Conroy returned to his hometown of Moberly in 1966, where he remained until his death in 1990. Throughout his life Conroy helped transform literature through his publishing and mentoring of young writers who came to publish lasting literature of their own. He reviewed thousands of books critiquing literature, and he founded and edited multiple literary journals. To learn more about Jack Conroy look up the Jack Conroy Collection on the Library page on MACC.edu or visit the Jack Conroy Room in the Main Building on the Moberly Campus.

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**Join the Jack Conroy Passport Scavenger Hunt!**

Stop by your local LARC today and pick up a Jack Conroy Passport, complete the scavenger hunt, and turn it back in at your LARC for a chance to win prizes!

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*“Everything you need for better future and success has already been written. And guess what? All you have to do is go to the library.”* —Henri Frederic Amiel
Are You Ready for FINALS?!

The Clock is Ticking …

The LARC is a great place to study for finals. Get one-on-one tutoring with tricky subjects, like math, algebra, and English. Use the computers to do homework, and then print your assignments. Need complete quiet? See if your LARC has some quiet study rooms available. Can’t make it to campus? No problem! Make an appointment to work with a virtual tutor through Blackboard! Email: virtualtutor@macc.edu

Finals Week is May 15 –18

Come in and work with a tutor now, don’t wait until the last minute!

Get help planning a study schedule, or ask for study tips.

Utilize the library’s books and databases to research papers and projects.

All the resources you need are here at the LARC!

Have Questions?
Feel free to stop by the LARC and ask!
You can also contact:
Valerie Darst, Director of the LARC
660-263-4100 ex. 11244
ValerieDarst@macc.edu

Jill Gosseen, LARC Coordinator
660-263-4100 ex. 11310
JillGosseen@macc.edu

Stacy Donald, Resource Coordinator
660-263-4100 ex. 12116
StacyDonald@macc.edu

Check out Ray Bradbury’s classic novel *Fahrenheit 451* And other great books at the Library!