Announcer (00:00:03)

The Missouri State Journal, a weekly program keeping you in touch with Missouri State University.

Adair Seifert (00:00:10)

National Reading Month is a time for readers of all kinds to celebrate literature and its evolution over the centuries.

I'm Adair Seifert, and today, Dereke Moser, director of resource Management and discovery at the Meyer Library at Missouri State University, offers insight into reading trends and how technology has impacted the reading community.

Dereke Moser (00:00:30)

The way that I've observed how people consume and read books over the past several years has been somewhat of a unique kind of way of seeing things. When I first got into librarianship, Goodreads was just becoming a thing, and it was something that people were starting to utilize on a somewhat regular basis. So, you would have these individuals who are avid readers that were reaching out to their friends who are just getting into reading, who were kind of making reading kind of like hip and trendy. And so, you saw reading as a way to kind of get connected to your friends and kind of in the social thing, this is now something we can talk about and that's been the case for years, right?

For decades, if not centuries, people have discussed reading, their reading habits, etcetera. But it started because of, like, most things within our society we have this digital aspect to it now that is starting to make things that we've done for years more visible, something that people can observe now a little bit easier than they might have just thought about in the past.

And so, because of that, we now have a way to see what people are reading and not just on Goodreads, but tons of different platforms. On YouTube, different social media, I'm going to say resources because that's what we say in the library world, we just have all these different ways that we can see what people are reading and then how they're reading it, too. Audio books, eBooks, printed books, articles.

Adair Seifert (00:01:57)

He explains how technology has impacted the way people read.

Derke Moser (00:02:00)

It seems that technology has impacted the way that people experience literature in a myriad of ways. So, you have individuals who can have these immersive experiences with literature, so we look at the trends of today and we see how reading is kind of highlighting like a lot of digital trends do right, something that's gone on within society over the years. It's just now we can see it more and so we can, or we can see it again like we haven't seen it for a long time and so, and I think that's one of the things that technology tends to do.

Especially, when we're thinking about reading, now we have this instance where a tradition that's been going on for years and for decades and for centuries and for millennia is now a tradition that is, somewhat revitalized. Now we have a really a wider access to it, sometimes even free depending upon how technologically savvy one is

And and so I think that that is something to think about when we look at how reading has changed reading. It's not so much as it's changed it compared to where it used to be, but it might have changed the way that we now access reading from a fiscal state.

The point how we access it from the point of view of like a student at Missouri State University, 20 or 30 forty years ago might not have had the opportunities to enjoy reading the way that it is now through this audio enriched presentation or medium, but now you know can just pull it up, get something download it right away, or not have to download at all because it can stream and have free access to it, etcetera.

Adair Seifert (00:03:45)

He offers insight into how social media and digital communities influence reading.

Derke Moser (00:03:50)

Online book clubs and and different platforms that really changed the way that individuals may be used to not associate themselves with reading as being something that they do or something that they think is worthwhile into something that is worthwhile, like it's almost changed kind of the image of reading. I think that's what a lot of the online platforms have done to help really promote reading as something for yourself, something to keep you in a healthy space to help you escape. Because how many times has reading, and literature been called it? Escapism, you know? And and and and go on that journey to a far-off world that you never could experience without this book in hand.

Adair Seifert (00:04:42)

That was Derek Moser, director of Resource Management and discovery at the Meijer Library at Missouri State University. I'm Adair Seifert for the Missouri State Journal.

Announcer (00:04:52)

For more information, contact the Office of Strategic Communication at 417-836-6397, the Missouri State Journal is available online at ksmu.org.