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## Mobile slow to replace print newspapers

**U. MISSOURI (US)** — Mobile news products do not appear to be replacing printed newspapers as quickly as was earlier predicted, a new survey shows.

**Two-thirds of US adults now use at least one mobile media device in their daily lives, according to the survey recently conducted by the Reynolds Journalism Institute (RJI) at the University of Missouri.**

News consumption ranks fourth among reasons people use mobile devices, behind interpersonal communications, entertainment, and Internet usage for information not provided by news organizations, the survey shows.

“The increased use of mobile devices does not yet appear to have accelerated the switch from print to digital news consumption as earlier surveys suggested,” says Roger Fidler, the program director for digital publishing at RJI. “Forty percent of mobile device users indicated in our survey that they still subscribe to printed newspapers and news magazines. This percentage was almost identical for non-users of mobile devices.”

The RJI survey interviewed more than 1,000 randomly selected respondents. The survey divided mobile media devices into four categories: large tablets, small tablets, e-readers, and smart phones.

More than 21 percent of the respondents said they now use large tablets, a category of mobile devices that entered the market just two years ago. Results showed that Apple is dominating the large tablet market, with more than 88 percent of large tablet users owning an iPad, while Amazon is dominating the small tablet and e-reader markets.

The survey also showed that smartphones and large media tablets are the two most popular devices for consuming news. Fidler says that news organizations should consider these numbers when targeting their audiences.

“Amazon and Apple have built quite a bit of brand loyalty from their customers,” Fidler says. “Forty-four percent of Apple iPhone owners also own large media tablets, 96 percent of which are iPads. This obviously poses a significant challenge for publishers and advertisers who are trying to circumvent Apple by focusing their attention on mobile devices with the Android operating system.

“These results suggest that to reach the highest percentage of smartphone and large media tablet owners, news organizations must make their content available on Apple iPhones and iPads.”

Concerning Amazon, the RJI survey showed 22 percent of Kindle e-reader owners also own a small media tablet, of which 71 percent were Kindle Fire tablets, while only 14 percent owned Barnes & Noble Nook tablets.

The survey also found that Apple iPhone and iPad owners tended to be somewhat older and have significantly higher household incomes than owners of smart phones and large media tablets powered by Google's Android operating system.



## Missouri to host global climate change conference

**COLUMBIA, MO. — Scientists and policy makers from across the country and overseas are expected at a three-day University of Missouri conference on global climate change beginning Wednesday.**

The conference is supported by Mizzou Advantage, an initiative that seeks to promote applied research in strategic areas including sustainable energy, food science and health and medicine.

The speakers' roster includes a World Bank consultant, a scientist from the National Oceanography and Atmospheric Administration and several Missouri researchers.

# The Chronicle of Higher Education

## The Closing of University Presses, Part 2

June 4, 2012, 8:54 am

By [Frank Donoghue](#)

**Thanks to all of you who commented on my last post about the proposed closing of the University of Missouri press, supplying me with valuable information and links.** Special thanks to Ned Stuckey-French for the encouraging update detailing the recent protest—on campus, local, statewide, and national—against the closing of the press. That’s a very good sign, for if a press as significant as Missouri’s were allowed to simply slip away, we should all be alarmed by the apathy, but based on Stuckey-French’s list, the response is far from apathetic. I also received a lot of recommendations that suggest that if university presses are to survive, they have to change their business model, and move toward a system of open-access e-books.

I don’t doubt that this may eventually happen, but I have serious reservations about how it would transform the very nature of authorship. Let’s consider for a moment not university presses but university libraries: What do most university libraries (and on a smaller scale, college libraries) contain in the form of hard copy? I can speak best from personal experience. In 20 plus years at Ohio State I have taught several history-of-the-book courses where my main, and invaluable, resource was the library’s rare-book room. I found it impossible to teach the course without giving students the tactile sense of books as objects through the ages. Were the library to close, would the rare-books collection be transferred to the archives, or worse yet sold off?

Another resource: My university’s library, like many others I’m sure, contains a vast number of complete or nearly complete runs of periodicals which would be nearly impossible to find elsewhere. These periodicals and proceedings have, to my knowledge, not been digitized, and I doubt the motivation to do so would be very strong. They’re not conspicuously available in the library, but they’ve been available when I’ve needed them. If we then bypass the significant number of reference materials, many of them constantly building, we’re left with monographs published by university presses as the most populous items on the shelves of university libraries.

This leads to an uncomfortable subject, on which I touched in my last post. The central question is: How many of those books are read? A more negative, even cynical version: How much dead

space is being taken up in university libraries by monographs that have been written only for the purpose of gaining tenure or promotion for the author or advancing the author's professional career?

Mark Bauerlein, in an [article](#) published in *The Chronicle* in December, 2011, zeroes in on a representative example: "a professor who spends five years on a book on Charles Dickens (which sold 43 copies to individuals and 250 copies to libraries, the library copies averaging only two checkouts in the six years after its publication.\*)" I wish to zero in on one aspect of this weird supply-demand economy—the 250 copies to libraries which almost never get circulated. The book in question, I assume, was published by a university press, yet virtually no one is reading it. How is that not a waste? And how does its existence, which is typical thanks to the reward system in academia, justify the continued funding of university presses so long as they use their current business model?

Hard questions, I admit, but they have to be addressed, as university presses are bound to come under increased financial scrutiny from administrators in the years ahead.

So what might be solutions? Here are two, but neither will work. What if university presses limited themselves to publishing only books that they could confidently assume would sell well and were actually read? The litmus tests? The editors of the university press must be confident that the book will yield its author thousands of dollars in royalties, that the book will be widely bought and circulated by public libraries, that readers will actually notice it and care about what the author has to say. The alternative: open-access publishing. This would shrink the size of university library budgets significantly, since so many monographs would simply disappear from the shelves and exist only on the Internet. Would it save money? I expressed skepticism in my last post, but the debate seems to be open.

This solution, though, would alter the definition of what it means to be an author. Open-access publishing would not guarantee that authors would get cash advances or royalties for the books that they write. Perhaps that's so much the norm in academia that most professors would embrace this transition. I would not. I view authorship as part of my profession, and the thought of writing without getting paid is unthinkable. If I write something for publication, I deserve an outright fee, a cash advance, royalties, or some combination of the above. I don't believe it's selfish of me to say so: For me to say otherwise would be for me to renounce the idea of intellectual property—at least insofar as it comes to writing.

So I think we need to contemplate the widest range of questions on this subject: How are university libraries related to university presses? How are university presses related to what Lindsay Waters has called the "tyranny of the monograph" and Mark Bauerlein's data on how few monographs are even checked out of university libraries, let alone read? How do university presses distinguish between authors who will write books that will make them money and authors who are writing monographs (with guns to their heads) in order to get tenure—monographs that are all but guaranteed to lose money. The situation at the University of Missouri is certainly a lightning rod, but the problem is comprehensive and needs our immediate attention.



## MU observatory to host Venus transit watch

By Janese Silvey  
Columbia Daily Tribune  
Monday, June 4, 2012

There will be a little black spot on the sun tomorrow, and if you miss it, you're not likely to catch it next time it rolls around.

Venus is making its irregular route across the sun, and it will be viewable in the United States during prime-time hours tomorrow.

**"This is fantastic," said Angela Speck, a University of Missouri professor and director of MU's astronomy program. "I didn't get to see it last time, so this is the only chance in my lifetime I'm going to get to see this. It's something you can watch and really witness the motion of the heavens."**

Speck is hosting a watch party at Laws Observatory in the Physics Building on the MU campus. From 5 p.m. until sunset, the public can view the solar spectacle using telescopes and binoculars equipped with protective filters. Those with good eyesight also can use solar viewing glasses, which will be given out at the observatory. Don't try to see the transit by looking directly at the sun without special glasses — you won't be able to see the spot because the sun is too bright and will damage your eyes.

After the sun goes down, Speck will give a lecture explaining the planet's unusual path and how astronomers have used it to gain a better understanding of the solar system.

Because the orbit of Venus is not in the same plane as the Earth's orbit, the pattern is strange, Speck said. The transit happens in pairs separated by eight years, but those pairs happen less than once per century — sometimes in 105 years, other times in 122 years. Before this cycle, the last transit of Venus occurred in 1882.

The last transit occurred in 2004, but people in the U.S. were only able to catch the tail end of it in the wee hours of the morning. Val Germann of the Central Missouri Astronomical Association said he and about 10 others braved the "beastly" hour to catch it at around 5 a.m.

"It looks like a hole has been shot through the sun," he said. "It's a perfectly round circle slowly going across the sun."

As for the three hours the planet's transit will be visible tomorrow, Germann said he has been waiting for this event ever since he became interested in astronomy as a youngster.

"I literally have known about this for 40 years," he said. "As a kid, I remember thinking, 'Am I going to live long enough to see some of these events?' Astronomy is like that."

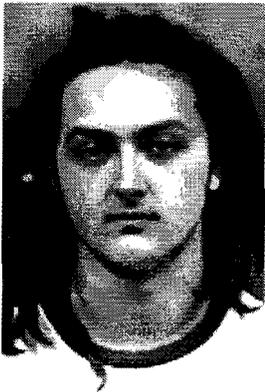
He already is looking forward to the next big astronomical event. In August 2017, Mid-Missourians will have a prime seat during a total solar eclipse. "That will be a true spectacle," Germann said. "People will come from all over the country for that one."

Reach Janese Silvey at 573-815-1705 or e-mail [jsilvey@columbiatribune.com](mailto:jsilvey@columbiatribune.com).

## Racist graffiti results in probation

Published June 4, 2012 at 6:12 p.m.

**A former University of Missouri student** pleaded guilty to misdemeanor property damage today for painting a racist slur on campus in February 2011 and was sentenced to probation.



Ben Elliott

Benjamin A. Elliott was sentenced to 90 days in the Boone County Jail by Circuit Judge Christine Carpenter, but the execution of the sentence was suspended in favor of two years probation, said Jeff Hilbrenner, Elliott's attorney. A stipulation of his probation is to perform 100 hours of community service.

Elliott spray-painted "nigger" on a statue outside Hatch Hall on Feb. 12. Later that day, Columbia police discovered another incident that included an anti-Jewish message spray-painted on a Toyota near campus at 1517 Ross St.

The court case was continued several times over the past year as prosecutors waited to see whether lab results might link Elliott to the second incident as well. Hilbrenner said evidence did not link the two incidents and that Elliott's guilty plea was for the incident at Hatch Hall.

# Benjamin Elliott pleads guilty to property damage of Hatch Residence Hall

By Stephanie Proffer

June 4, 2012 | 5:35 p.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — **Benjamin Elliott, the former MU student accused of spray painting racist graffiti outside of Hatch Residence Hall**, pleaded guilty Monday to second-degree property damage, a class B misdemeanor.

Elliott has been ordered to pay restitution of \$537.20, as well as court costs. He will also serve two years of unsupervised probation and complete 100 hours of community service.

Although Elliott has been volunteering at the Boys and Girls Town in Phelps County, Boone County Circuit Judge Christine Carpenter ordered additional hours of community service as part of his sentence.

If he violates his probation, he must serve 90 days of jail time, Carpenter said.

In February 2011, Elliott, then a freshman from Rolla in the College of Arts and Science, vandalized a statue outside of Hatch with what appeared to be a derogatory reference to Black History Month.

As a result, he was suspended from the university.