Why Do We Need Libraries?

"The staff here are very knowledgeable, and very kind and welcoming; easy to talk to. When I was a freshman I think I was really nervous about the libraries. A lot of academic spaces can have a prestigious and haughty disposition, and feel unapproachable. At the USM Libraries, we know who we are. We're all people here. I enjoy the vibe."  
- USM Student

"I think for me, the most basic piece of information that I always want to make sure students know is that they can always come ask us things. It takes a lot of courage to walk into a space where you might not know anyone there or how your question will be received and I think part of our role is to really honor that, the guts it takes to ask a question. The number of times we hear "that is a stupid question"... we're never gonna judge a question. The most important thing on any given day is the student that's in front of us. That's the ethos I want this library to have.”  
- USM Library Staff

"We are one of the few places on campus, by virtue of how long we're open and how accessible we are, where anyone can come. They do not have to spend money to be here, they don't have to have a particular purpose for being here, it is just a space available for people to spend their time how they want. We are the place where if someone doesn’t know where they need to go to get an answer to a question, we’re the place they come.”  
- USM Library Staff

Welcoming Spaces

Picture to the left is art inspired by The USM Library's plant giveaway event, Plant Palooza. The table cloth pattern is inspired by textile patterns in the mill exhibit at the Osher Map Library.