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President's Page

As the summer heats dies *at large; joint ownership.* down, we approach fall with a sense of renewal of life. And with this we librarians think of the new school year, new students with new questions to be answered, and new patrons who may want more and different services than have been offered in the past. The opportunity for all types of librarians in our state to learn about best practices is available through the annual Mississippi Library Association Annual Conference. This year, your vice-president, Amanda Powers, has planned a great program of events for you. The theme is: **Mississippi Libraries: Making a Community Work.**

Webster's defines community as: *a body of people living in the same place under the same laws; a natural population of plants and animals that interact ecologically and live in one place; a society*

I'm not sure that we fit the second definition (well, perhaps some of us do), but we certainly can make the case of being a community of librarians. Many years ago, most public libraries in our state

public libraries often times serve patrons who are not based in the town that the actual library is located. Therefore, defining our "community" has evolved over the years and will continue to evolve. But our library community in the State of Mississippi continues to be one of common ground. And to me it is the thought that we all want to serve our patrons with the resources they need to become better citizens in their own communities.

This year's conference will certainly offer something for everyone. Please join me at this year's 2013 MLA Conference - October 15-17 - at the IP Casino in Biloxi, MS.



Lynn Shurden
2013 MLA President

were established by a local community group of some type. So we are very familiar with the idea of community based libraries.

And as the world has changed; we don't all live in the same place to be part of this community. Libraries in colleges and

Discovery Service Evaluation

A case study from the University of Mississippi

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INTRODUCTION

Discovery services are a large investment for any type of library. Vendors of products like Ex Libris's *Primo*, EBSCO's *EDS*, and Serial Solutions's *Summon* try to lure libraries by marketing the necessity of having a one-stop shop and 'Google-like' experience to make searching easier for patrons. These vendors claim that by placing library catalog records, database articles, and other library resources in a single search interface, students and patrons can more easily discover and use resources that are already bought and paid for—hence the term "discovery service."

Because these products would change the way a patron searches, and can be very costly, it becomes a large endeavor full of concerns such as how to start the process, deciding whether a discovery service is right for a library's patrons, and how to organize the process of evaluating the competing products. This article highlights the discovery services review process that University of Mississippi recently conducted and can provide some guidance to other libraries considering discovery services.

ORGANIZING

The first steps include determining the need for a discovery service. This involves deciding what faculty/staff are involved in a decision to add a discovery service. If the decision is reached to proceed to an evaluation of products, the first step will be to assign a person to be the main contact who will serve as the project manager. You will want to choose someone who is comfortable with vendors and who can maintain positive relationships with them. The person should have the expertise to research the competing products and create a project plan.

After determining the needs of the library, available budget, technology and staff levels, the project manager should research the available discovery services

and create a list of three to four to evaluate. Once the initial research has been conducted, the project manager can then take their suggestions to the library administration or committee responsible for giving the approval for the evaluation process to begin. Based on their decision the project manager will then prepare for about a six-month process for a thorough evaluation. Deciding on a discovery service is a long process that should not be rushed.

Month 1:

The project manager needs to conduct more research about the discovery services. Initially, they can visit websites to review any marketing materials and recorded webinars. After this review, the most important task during this month is to establish contact with a vendor representative. They should schedule a phone conversation with the vendor representative, explain that the library is beginning a discovery service evaluation, and learn some additional general information about the discovery service including upcoming updates. The project manager should schedule additional webinars or attend training to learn as much information as possible.

Month 2:

The project manager will want to approach all departments or sections within the library and ask them to provide questions or concerns about the discovery service relating to their duties and workflow. If you are conducting this evaluation and already have a current discovery service, feedback about the current product is valuable. It can help the project manager learn about problems that the current vendor could improve on if the same discovery service is selected. Positive feedback could set the standard for what competitors need to include.

Be sure to include all departments as a discovery service will affect almost everyone's work. Reference or public service librarians may instruct patrons or help them with issues, Special Collections or Archives may have their collections within discovery services, Inter-library Loan may have the experience of conducting many

searches within the discovery service and notice regular issues of links failing or problem searches, and Technical Services may control the administration of the discovery service, handle all troubleshooting issues and manage the coverage of online subscriptions. If you have a current discovery service, the project manager can review support cases to see if there are any regularly occurring problems.

After the project manager gathers this information, it can serve as a foundation for the visit. The project manager will contact the discovery services representative and start planning the agenda for the visit. It is important to invite not only the primary representative but also an additional person who can answer technical questions. Our presentations were ninety minutes for the main presentation and question period. It was helpful to block off a two-hour period in case questions ran over the time limit. After the main presentation a second technical presentation was held. If you have a current discovery service, you may want to have the main presentation cover updates for the upcoming year and plan a feedback session instead of a technical presentation where you can discuss any problems and give the vendor an opportunity to create a plan to resolve or improve them.

Month 3:

Visits will occur during this month. The project manager should set rules with the vendors for any topics that are off-limits. For example, we wanted to focus on the vendor's specific discovery service and not have any comparisons to competing products. We also did not want any derogatory references to competitors' products.

The project manager will distribute the information about the visits, including the agenda to the library faculty and staff. If you do not want the vendors to know which other products are being evaluated, the project manager can make that clear in the information sent out to the attendees. It was a more positive experience having the vendors focus on their products instead of tailoring their presenta-

tion or answers to questions to the perceived strengths and weaknesses of another competitor. The project manager should hold follow-up conversations with the vendors after the visits to clarify anything that was unclear.

At the end of this month, ask the vendor for a sample of their MARC records and ask what information is needed for a holdings analysis. It is important to ask for an analysis at the journal level to get a more comprehensive report. If a discovery service vendor does not have an agreement with a database vendor, they may have an agreement with the publisher.

Month 4:

During this month the project manager will send follow-up questions to the vendors and starting pricing negotiations. Set a firm deadline that the pricing proposal, sample MARC records and coverage analysis is due at the end of the month. Another suggestion is to have the project manager ask the vendor if a trial to look at another college's discovery service is available. Because of license restrictions, you may need to sign a contract that you will have view-only access. If approved, the vendor will know which library is most similar to yours and can work out any additional terms with the library for limited viewing.

Month 5:

The project manager will collect all the information and create an evaluation packet per Discovery Service for those who will participate in the decision that includes the pricing proposal, MARC record samples, holdings analysis and any other information the library deems necessary to make a decision. The project manager will submit any follow up questions to the vendor and will start working on a discovery service review presentation for the library.

Month 6:

The project manager will give a presentation comparing discovery services and highlighting different aspects that are important to the library. Afterwards, it may be helpful to have a week for voting to ensure everyone has enough time to submit their decision. Once the vote is tallied and decision has been reached, contact the vendors to let them know the outcome. This is a courtesy not only so they know the deci-

sion, but it gives a chance for the project manager to maintain positive relationships with the vendors who often provide other resources and services that the library use or may look at in the future.

CONCLUSION

By utilizing a process like the one described above, the University of Mississippi was able to determine its need for a discovery service, critically examine competing products, and reach adequate internal consensus. It was therefore able to move forward with the acquisition of a new discovery service for Spring 2014. It is our hope that by laying out this process here, other libraries will be able to follow our lead in reviewing discovery services should they choose to purchase one, and possibly generalize the process to any large library project involving competing and expensive products.

Popularity of Young Adult Vampire Literature

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INTRODUCTION

Overview

Young adult vampire fiction has become popular in the past years. Book series, such as *Twilight* and *Vampire Diaries*, have captivated readers, young and old, bringing them into the tangled mysterious web of vampires. Young adults continue to read books about vampires; they love the theme of the books because they can easily relate to it. This contemporary vampire literature "addresses themes of love, fidelity, social anxieties, coming of age, and other issues confronting youth" (Guliey, 2011, p 17).

The books focus solely on the teenagers, giving them the attention they want. The protagonists of the books are teenagers which fulfills the need of the young adult demographic. The authors also make the "parents or guardians of the mortals often clueless about what is really going on" (Guliey, 2011, p 17). Vampire books are popular with young adults, because the authors have made it their mission to keep them relatable to their readers.

Purpose of the Study

The intent of this study is to examine young adult vampire literature and how the characters have evolved. The research will examine how the vampires changed from ruthless monsters to misunderstood beings with a conscience, as well as, their victim's evolution from helpless females to warriors. The research will include the number of young adult vampire themed books published, from 1980 to 2011. The personality and demeanor of the main characters will also be examined.

Problem Statement

Vampires have been a controversial subject through the years across many genres. Young adult literature has been responsible for facilitating the evolution of vampire lore. This research will trace how the vampire history has evolved along with

the different characteristics of the protagonists in those stories.

Research Questions

1. How many young adult (YA) books based on vampire themes were published each year between 1980 and 2011?
2. How do the personalities and demeanors of the main characters change from the first vampire novels to those in novels by the year 2011?

Definitions

Bibliometric Research—The use of mathematical and statistical methods to study and identify patterns in the usage of materials and services within a library or to analyze the historical development of a specific body of literature, especially its authorship, publication, and use. Prior to the mid-20th century, the quantitative study of bibliographic data and usage was known as statistical bibliography (ODLIS, 2007, *Bibliometrics*, para. 1).

Genre- A particular type or kind of literature, music or other artistic work (Chambers 21st Century, 2001, para. 1).

YA—"An abbreviation of young adult, an adolescent aged 12-18, usually in the ninth to twelfth grade" (ODLIS, 2007, YA, para. 1).

Limitations

This study will be limited to data from *Worldcat* by searching under the term: vampire. Only the books in that catalog at the time of the search will be used. Also, only printed books classified as young adult books between 1980 and 2011 will be used. Multi-media or e-books will not be included.

Assumptions

It is assumed that the information in *Worldcat* database is indexed correctly so that relevant books are retrieved. It is further assumed that the descriptive information for each book is accurate.

Significance of Research

One of the goals of this research is to see what is popular with teens in order to facilitate collection development decisions. Since the popularity of vampires is growing through the decades, it is important to recognize the rise of publication as well as the history and development of this genre.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

"The vampire is a creature of endless, some might say undying fascination of the young adult" (De Marco, 1997, para1). Definitions of vampire terminology will be discussed in this review. Twelve journal articles will be examined and an explanation of their relevance and importance will be included. The twelve journal articles found through *EBSCOHOST* will help depict the changes in the myths and characteristics of the vampires and their heroines in young adult literature. This review will also include an explanation of the form of research.

Definitions Related to Vampires

Dracula- *Dracula*, or 'little dragon' also meant 'little devil' (Goldberg, 2008, p 23).

Undead- said of a vampire, zombie, etc: supposedly dead but still able to move around, etc (Chambers 21st Century, 2001, para. 1).

Vampirism- belief in the existence of vampires (Collins English Dictionary, 2000, para.1)

Review of Journals:

The twelve journal articles explain how vampires and the heroines have not just evolved through time, but specifically for the young adult genre. The authors of the vampire genre have been able to relate to the young adults by making the vampires life experiences mirror the young adults' own life experiences. Vampires, just like young adults, change through the decades in their demeanor and their personalities.

Popularity of Vampires

Vampire literature for young

adults is a genre that has been on the rise since the 1980s. Four of the twelve journal articles identify why vampirism is so popular today in young adult literature.

Joseph De Marco examines the reasons why vampires are appealing to young adults. De Marco explains that it is not just vampires that appeal to young adults, but the "whole subculture dubbed Gothic, a large component of which has to do with vampires" (De Marco, 1997, para 2). De Marco has looked into the subconscious of the young adult psyche and quotes Dr. James Twitchell in his article by saying "the popularity of the vampire stems, in part, from the fact that this creature represents the condensation of the problems and resolutions of pre-adolescence" (De Marco, 1997, para 3). Authors of the vampire genre know how to relate to young adults through their life experiences.

The author also appeals to the young adults by depicting the vampires as being confident. Edward shows confidence in the book *Twilight* when he motions for Bella to come sit with him at lunch when she is trying to figure out what exactly he is. He does not care what the other students think and tells Bella that "I decided as long as I was going to hell, I might as well do it thoroughly" (Meyer, 2005, p 87) meaning, he knows what he was doing and he was ready to accept any of the consequences. The human teenage characters represented in the books relate dramatically to what the readers are experiencing in their lives with "increased self awareness and identity exploration" (De Marco, 1997, 11). The books are more than just mere fantasy; they are a way for young adults to feel like the world understands them as well as get lost in the fantasy of the vampire world.

Sonia Levitin's article in *The Horn Book Magazine* explores why the supernatural has become popular with young adults. Levitin admits to being "astonished by the explosion in YA publishing of stories dealing with the supernatural" (Levitin, 2011, 40). Levitin's article begins by discussing the Harry Potter trend through the young adult genre and how it started the fascination of the supernatural with "witchcraft, magic, and sorcery" (Levitin, 2011, 40). Levitin continues to explain that she was "caught by surprise as Harry Potter morphed into the vampire craze" (Levitin, 2011, 40). The article explores in-depth how young adults got

caught in the vampire trend.

Levitin explains the magnetic characteristics that have young adult girls swooning over Edward Cullen in the book *Twilight*. In chapter 13 of *Twilight*, Stephenie Meyer helps show how Edward is the perfect protective predator. He knows he is dangerous to Bella and he tries to remind her that he is dangerous and to not forget it (Meyer, 2005, p 266). Edwards tells Bella that "The thought of you, still, white, cold...to never see you blush scarlet again, to never see that flash of intuition in your eyes when you see through my pretenses... it would be unendurable." (Meyer, 2005, p. 273). He would go on and explain that she is the most important thing to him in his life now. (Meyer, 2005, p.273). Levitin describes Edward as "a superhero in his own way-handsome, strong, brave, determined, passionate. However, he has one fatal flaw. Edward is also deadly" (Levitin, 2011, 40). The appeal to the supernatural world is the rush of adrenaline, for young adults, the way that the characters are in danger and solve the problems themselves. The vampire characters relate to the young adults in how they look at the world and how they can escape life problems.

Authors of the vampire literature seem to know exactly what their readers are looking for with the appeal of vampires. James Blasingame and Kerri interviewed the authors of *The House of Night* series, P.C. Cast and Kristen Cast. The authors are a mother/daughter duo who co-write the young adult series with a different type of vampire story. Their vampire novels look into the biology of "junk DNA" (Blasingame and Mathew, 2009, 83) and how that can turn some people into vampires. P.C. Cast went as far as asking her father, a science teacher, about the basics of DNA and hormones to determine if they could act together to form a vampire.

The authors admit that there is a deeper message in the girl/boy relationships in their story. Kristen Cast says, "One important message is that you have to be OK on your own before you can be OK in a relationship. You have to be able to stand alone, healthy and happy, before you can be with anybody else. Happiness doesn't come from someone else" (Blasingame and Mathew, 2009, 83). One of Zoey's strong love interests encouraged her to not dwell on his fate, but on her future. The Casts use Heath, Zoey's ex-boyfriend, to try to get her to live her life

to the fullest and not worry about leaving him in the spirit world and living her life:

I want you to remember something, Zo. It's important, and it'll make more sense when you have yourself together again. I'm gonna leave here and get another chance at life. You're gonna be a big, famous vamp High Priestess. That means you're gonna live like a gazillion years. *I'll find you again*. Even if it takes a hundred of those years. I promise you, Zoey Redbird, we'll be together again. (Cast, 2010, p 282)

After he reminds her how important it is to live her life and the promise to find her again, he saw her waking up from her depressive state just enough to give him hope before he went back to the spirit world completely (Cast, 2010, p 282).

P.C. Cast defends her main character, Zoey, when asked about her vampire relationships by a middle-aged women who read her young adult book. A major question that P.C. Cast is always asked is when will Zoey settle down with one guy and make a choice. P.C. Cast states "It's unrealistic and unhealthy for a young woman to choose a partner for life before she's of legal age! Zoey will NEVER be on a verge of suicide over a boy" (Blasingame and Mathew, 2009, 84). Having those messages in the book make it very different than the first vampire-hyped book, *Twilight*, where the main character, Bella, goes suicidal by risking her life, in adrenaline filled activities, after Edward leaves her for her own good. With authors, such as the Casts, making different and interesting vampires and different types of relationships there is likelihood that the vampire genre will continue to survive and grow.

There is a need for vampire stories in every generation. Ali Brox explores this by using the book *Fledgling*, as an example. Brox talks about how vampires will be a part of every age. She has defined how vampires are symbolic to the outsiders of our community and how the community looks at them. By adding that theme to vampire literature, it helps the young adult's relate to the vampires.

Evolution of Vampires

Vampires in young adult literature have evolved with unique personalities and demeanors. The next eight articles found

through EBSCOHOST explain how this evolution changed the main characters and why it is so appealing to the readers.

The trend of how the vampires relate to young adults is one to which critics can attest. Many critics see how the personalities and demeanors of the characters have changed to fit the needs of the readers. Kathleen Sweeny's article of "Supernatural Girls" looks into the new popular characteristics of the new heroines. Sweeney states that "it is easy to forget that teenage girl characters of 1950s, 1960s, 1970s, and 1980s media widely seen by American audiences barely had narratives dedicated to them, let alone the ability to karate-kick evil-doers" (Sweeny, 2006, para 3). The heroine that is loved through literature today is now the one that can protect herself.

The character switch started in the 1990s and can be seen throughout the vampire genre through the kick-butt character of Buffy from *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*. Buffy Summers, a high school student in California, is the Chosen One in the *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* series. A Slayer is given the abilities to handle the supernatural with super strength, agility, and speed. She is trained by a Watcher, to know all about the supernatural. While being a prophesized Slayer to protect the world from evil, Buffy tries her best to have a normal life. In the episode *Never Kill a Boy on The First Date*, Buffy and her trainer, Giles, argue about how she is living her life:

Giles: Buffy, maintaining a normal social life when you're a Slayer is problematic at best. **Buffy:** This is the '90s! The 1990s, in point of fact, and I can do both. Clark Kent has a job. I just wanna go on a date. (Golden, 1998, p 6).

Now with a new species of "female icons" in book series, the females of the vampire books can hold their own against vampires and have a stronger presence than just being the natural damsel in distress. Young adults no longer desire to read about cliché characters. Strong female characters, reflecting the strong personality of the woman today, needs to be predominate in vampire literature to keep the interest of the young adults.

Another character that empowers the fe-

male generation is Anita Blake. Laurell Hamilton's series is more for the mature young adults, but her character is empowered and willing to mix and mingle with the guys. Linda J. Holland-Toll takes an inside look at what makes the *Anita Blake* series by Laurell Hamilton popular. The book series has an interesting story, but there is more to the series than just the story, the strong female lead character is what draws in the audience. Anita Blake has a power that makes her even more powerful than her strong personality and her knowledge of weapons. She has the power of a necromancer "who has an affinity with the dead and the power to reanimate corpses" (Holland-Toll, 2004, p 176). The power of the necromancer gives Blake an advantage with vampires and other creatures of the night that she hunts. Blake's job as an Animator and a U.S. Marshal has her hunting the monster of the night and is known as The Executioner by the supernatural beings.

Like any vampire book, the main heroine comes to understand the supernatural beings, realizing that there are good and evil ones. Anita Blake has a conscience and tries to keep that as a priority when faced with danger and to have an advantage with males and other monsters. Being a petite woman with this amount of power is something that keeps readers intrigued, especially the female ones. Readers relate to the stronger prospect of a woman being able to stand on her own, but have the ability to love as well. Jean-Claude, Anita's vampire lover, describes her strength and her heart by saying:

She is the Executioner and has more vampire kills than any other human. She is a necromancer of such power that you have traveled halfway around the world to consult her. She is my human servant without a mark to hold her to me. She dates me without the aid of vampire glamour. (Hamilton, 1997, p 2).

It shows the changing times and what readers want now.

The next four articles explore the relationship between the vampires and the female characters. The vampires have distinguishing characteristics ranging from good to evil "monsters". This demonstrates the vampires' evolution from evil monsters that only use humans for blood and food to

romantic seductive monsters with feelings. Helen Bailie helps explain the evolution of vampires as romantic lovers versus their murderous ancestors by saying "In the paranormal romances, the conventions and practices of the vampire found in horror novels are appropriated and transformed by popular romance writers into the essence of women's fantasy heroes" (Bailie, 2011, p 141). Bailie also explains how the horror of vampires taking blood from a woman as a predator has changed into something deeper, a romantic connection (Bailie, 2011, p 141), just as the television adaptation of the *Vampire Diaries* series, Elena shares her blood willingly with Stefan to help him through his blood crazed nature (Williamson, 2010).

The vampires have not just changed from their horrific nature, but the heroines have changed. According to Bernard Beck, the women are not "horrified by the vampires, nor did they feel intimidated by them. On the contrary; they were downright chummy with them. In fact, they were intergroup pioneers in establishing sympathetic contact with the 'alien' creatures" (Beck, 2011, p 92). Elena showed how sympathetic she was when Stefan told her that he was a vampire by wanting to know more, by not being afraid. She wanted to understand how old he really was, how he did not need regular food, and who he really was (Smith, 2007, p 212-213).

METHODOLOGY

Vampire myths and stories are popular in today's young adult literature. The focus on this examination will explore publication years, the characteristics of main characters, and the formatting of the YA books.

The collection of data for the publication years was obtained through *Worldcat* where over 400 YA books were found from 1980 to mid-2011. The search process consisted of a general keyword search for the word: vampire. The search was then narrowed down to the years of 1980 to mid-2011. The search was narrowed even further into just young adult books by omitting the adult books from the search.

The historical demeanors and personalities of the vampires were researched with vampire history books and encyclopedias. Only the main characters from *Twilight*, *House of Night*, *Vampire Diaries*, *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*, and *Vampire Academy* were used to determine

the demeanors and personalities of current vampires and heroines and to provide a conclusive analysis.

Charts were used to better organize the data collected for one of the two questions. A chart was used to answer the research question in depth and display the findings.

The research questions will help show how popular vampire books were in each decade ranging from the 1980's to the current decade. Also, the questions will address the characteristics of the protagonists broken down into decades to show how the vampires and heroines have evolved through the decades or within a decade.

RESULTS

Research Question 1

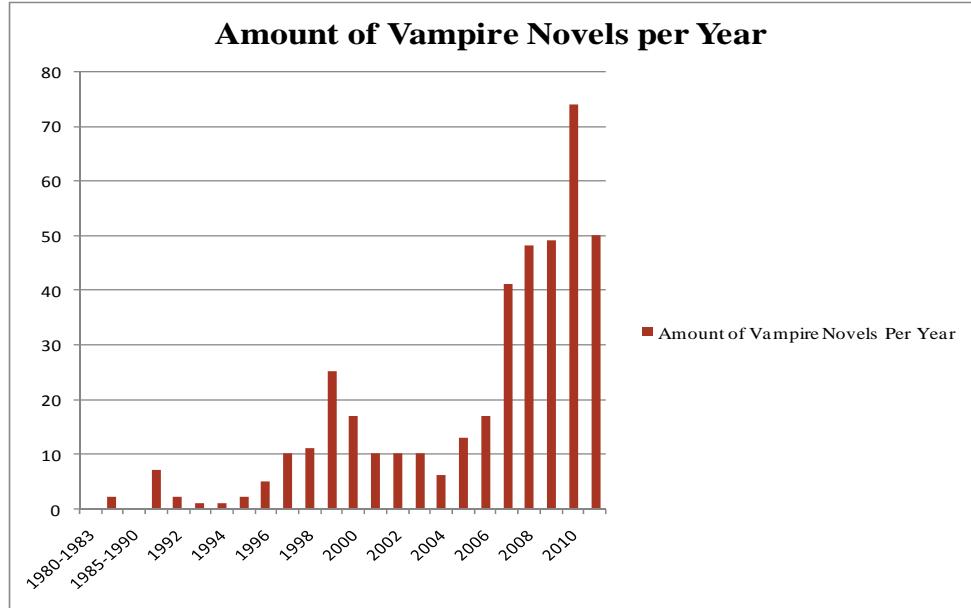
After evaluating data collected from *Worldcat*, it is evident that Young Adult vampire literature started to increase in the late 1990's. The books that were published prior to the late 1990's were mainly about the popular television show *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* and its spin-off series, *Angel*. The show and the book companions helped pave the way for the current theme in vampire novels, strong female lead characters and vampires with tormenting souls. Not only did it help vampires become a top genre choice for young adults, but it was a turning point in how vampires and heroines are characterized. According to Guiley:

Although *Buffy*, started as a spring show for the WB, the quirky program about a girl whose destiny is to kill vampires immediately caught on. Buffy's tough stance was not the only appeal; viewers appreciated her ambivalence to 'slayage,' her desire to fit into high school, the establishment of close friends, and her attraction to edgy guys who had great sex appeal and maybe even a dark side, like the vampire Angel. (Guiley, 2011, p 57).

Vampire young adult fiction has grown steadily since *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* appeared. In 2010 there were a total of 74 vampire titles for young adults in *WorldCat*.

Research Question 2

According to Daniel Cohen in his book *Real Vampires*:



...every year, it seems, there is at least one big-budget, major vampire film and a half dozen or so minor ones. The racks of paperback books are filled with vampire novels which range from trashy potboilers to the lyrical and literary. (Cohen, 1995, p 1).

Vampire stories have been around since Biblical times. "One of the earliest fables of a vampire-like creature is the story of Lilith, from ancient Babylonia. According to legend, Lilith was the first wife of Adam, in the Garden of Eden" (Kallen, 1991, p 6). There are many versions of Lilith's mythology. One of the popular myth states that:

Lilith originally was human. She was the first woman to have sexual relations with Adam, but left him when he refused to treat her as an equal. Adam complained to God who sent three angels (in some Christian versions, three saints) to return her to Adam. She refused, and God began destroying 100 of her demon offspring every day. She retaliated by attacking women in childbirth and newborn infants. (Guiley, 2007, p 222).

Lilith's story of attacking women in childbirth transformed into her being "a winged, long-haired female demon of the night who vampirizes newborn children

and seduces sleeping men—especially the newly married—in order to produce demon sons" (Guiley, 2007, p 222). "Vampire myths are part of almost every culture on Earth" (Kallen, 1991, p 8) like ancient Greece, Rome, China, Malaysia, and Europe. All of the vampire legends from the past have been incorporated into books, making their legends seem real.

The Foundation

Vampires from *Dracula*, the European and North American folklores, *Carmilla*, and *Nosferatu* have common "Foundation" characteristics. These characteristics reflect their personalities and demeanors. The vampires are not the only main characters of the stories, the heroines, and the victims also, had a major impact on the readers. The "Foundation" vampires are: dark natured, predatory, well-learned, intellectual, strong-willed, moody, mentally unstable, hunters, and relentlessly evil monsters. In Bram Stoker's *Dracula*, the Count is described as a monster to be feared and one of cold hardness. His evil nature is shown through the journal entries "as the Count saw us, a horrible sort of snarl passed over his face, showing the eyeteeth long and pointed. But the evil smile as quickly passed into a cold stare of lion-like disdain" (Stoker, 1992, p 307). The monster of Dracula is not just in his appearance and his reactions, but in his harsh words with:

My revenge is just begun! I spread it over centuries, and time

is on my side. Your girls that you all love are mine already. And through them you and others shall yet be mine, my creatures, to do my bidding and to be my jackals when I want to feed. Bah!" (*Dracula*, 1992, p 308).

These demeanors are what drove fear into the readers and the heroines of the stories. The heroines had their own personalities of being: a victim, a slave, dainty and fragile, and needy. The readers were able to identify and relate to being the ones that the vampire preyed on.

The heroines story of being seduced by a monster who needed to feed and feel human flesh for a night provided the needed interest that sparked the growing trend of vampires. *Dracula* used Lucy and Mina, the heroines in Bram Stoker's *Dracula*, as pawns to get revenge on Van Helsing and his companions. Dracula knew that it would torment Jonathan Harker and Van Helsing more by having to kill Lucy and Mina because they were vampires. Lucy's fiancé, Arthur could barely stand knowing how she would be killed. He responds by saying:

Heavens and earth, no! cried Arthur in a storm of passion. 'Not for the wide world will I consent to any mutilation of her dead body. Dr. Van Helsing, you try me too far. What have I done to you that you should torture me so? What did that poor, sweet girl do that you should want to cast such dishonor on her grave? Are you mad that speak such things, or am I mad to listen to them? Don't dare to think more of such a desecration; I shall not give protecting her grave from outrage; and by God, I shall do it! (*Stoker*, 1992, p 206).

In the end he knew that his fiancé had to die. She was not the same woman that he fell in love with, but a monster that needed to feed off of human blood. "That monster served as a good villain for nearly a century after Stoker put vampires on the entertainment map in 1897 with *Dracula*" (Guiley, 2011, p ix).

The Merger

Anne Rice was a major influence

in changing vampires and other major characters in the 1970s. Her series, *The Vampire Chronicles*, "follow(s) the life and adventures of the vampire LESTATE DE LIONCOURT, as well as other characters" (Guiley, 2011, p 293) helped provide an interest in vampires to readers. Rice's vampires had a mixture of characteristics from the "Foundation" vampires and the "Modern" vampires. The only change to the characteristics of the heroines in *The Vampire Chronicles*, compared to the heroines of the "Foundation" era, was that they felt drawn to the vampires more. "Anne Rice has influenced the treatment of vampires in literature –as well as the public perception of vampires- more than any writer since BRAM STOKER" (Guiley, 2011, p 293). Rice's vampires have different personalities and demeanors. Her vampires have qualities from the "Foundation" vampires and qualities from the "Modern" vampires such as: romantic figures, victims, do-gooders, love interests, careful hunters, and having sex appeal.

The "Modern" vampire characteristics helped unite readers of the legendary vampires and new fans of the creatures of the night together into one fandom. Rice showed a different version of a vampire through Louis, the character that tells the story of Lestat in *Interview with the Vampire*. Louis did not want to be a vampire all he wanted to do was die:

He was going for the coffins, or at least one. My thirst rose in me like fever, and I followed him. My desire to die was constant, like a pure thought in the mind, devoid of emotion. Yet I needed to feed. I've indicated to you I would not than kill people. I moved along the rooftop in search of rats. (Rice, 1976, p 71).

Being a vampire and hunting human blood, surprised Lestat and the boy who listened to Louis recount. Louis recalls an instant where it shows Rice's vampires struggling with their conscious and not being pure monsters on the earth. Rice has Lestat tell Louis that:

You are in love with your mortal nature! You chase after the phantoms of your former self. Freniere, his sister...these are images for you of what you were

and what you still long to be. And in your romance with mortal life, you're dead to your vampire nature! (Rice, 1976, p 82).

Lestat and Louis continue arguing what a true vampire should be, what they should feed on through the whole novel. At one point Louis even states "If I can live from the blood of animals, why should I not live from the blood of animals rather than go through the world bringing misery and death to human creatures!"(Rice, 1976, p 82). Rice helped pave the way for Young Adult authors to evolve vampires into a popular topic for their readers through her identity struggling vampires.

The Modern Version

"Today's vampire is a very different creature from the monster of the medieval imagination, or even the ghoulish aristocrat of Victorian horror stories. In modern novels and films, the status of vampire as, on the surface, indistinguishable 'normal human begins, is emphasized" (Montague, 2011, p 8). Vampires have not only changed physically through the years to create the "Modern" vampire, but they "are also characterized as having human emotions, that is falling in love, feeling the pain if separation, loss, and vilification, and more importantly, being anguished about their predicament as "undead being from the grave" (Montague, 2011, p8). The "Modern" vampires have some characteristics that match the "Foundation" vampires, but their main demeanors and personalities are: victims, romantic figures, do-gooders, empathetic outsiders, love interests, eccentric minorities, intellectual, mood, careful hunters, non-killers, and sexy.

Modern vampires such as Angel and Spike from *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*, Damon and Stefan Salvatore from *Vampire Diaries*, Edward from *Twilight*, and others have shown that the vampires struggle with their vampire nature and their desire to be human. Christopher Golden and Nancy Holder show how human Angel could be by giving quotes from the episode *Some Assembly Required*:

Buffy: Love makes you do the wacky.

Angel: What?

Buffy: Crazy stuff.

Angel: Oh, crazy like a 241-year-

old being jealous of a high school junior?

Buffy: Are you fessing up?

Angel: I thought about it. Maybe he bothers me a little.

Buffy: I don't love Xander.

Angel: But he's in your life. He gets to be there when I can't. Take your classes, eat your meals, hear your jokes and complaints. He gets to see you in the sunlight. (Golden, 1998, p 169).

Angel was showing that he was human, by being jealous. He was jealous in that episode because Buffy's best friend, Xander, was able to go to a dance with Buffy. He was showing his humanity by caring for someone, even if Buffy was destined to kill him. Most of the vampires in the modern young adult stories mirror Angels torment in some way.

Damon and Stefan Salvatore from the book series *Vampire Diaries* seem to be two different types of vampires. Stefan seems to be more of the modern vampire, by struggling with being undead and Damon seems to be more of the "foundation" vampire with wanting to embrace his vampire nature. Each brother, though, displays qualities of modern and foundation vampires. In L.J. Smiths *The Awakening*, the first books in the *Vampire Diaries Series*, Stefan is frustrated with his humanity and how he was rash in his thoughts with believing that he could blend into the high school scene:

Zuccon! Stefan thought, grabbing a bookcase and flinging it over, sending its contents flying. Fool! Blind, hateful fool. How could he have been so stupid? Find a place with them here? Be accepted as one of them? He must have been mad to have thought it was possible. (Smith, 2007, p 205).

Damon proves that he is more of the "Foundation" vampire his willingness to use the Old Powers, that L.J. Smith has given her vampires. Also he will not hesitate in killing his brother:

I've been merciful with you, brother. Many times you've been mine for the killing, but I've always spared your life. But this time is different. Damon stepped

away from the tree again and spoke aloud. "I'm warning you, Stefan, don't oppose me. It doesn't matter what I came here for. What I want now is Elena. And if you try to stop me from taking her, I will kill you. (245).

"Modern" vampires want to feel more human. Even in Stephanie Meyers book *Twilight*, Edward wants to go to prom with Bella after all they went through. He wants to feel human and blend in without people being scared of him. The vampires are not the only ones that have changed over time, but the heroines, the victims of the past, have evolved as well.

In popular book series for Young Adult literature like *Twilight*, *Vampire Diaries*, *House of Night*, *Vampire Academy*, and *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* the heroines of the stories have heart, passion, and a will to fight. The series that paved the way for the new heroines is *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*. Buffy "attracted viewers because it emphasized the idea of young woman as empowered Buffy and her friends are strong, brave, clever individuals who use a number of resources to track down and destroy the vampires" (Montague, 2011, p 174). *The Watchers Guide*, a viewers companion to *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*, by Christopher Golden and Nancy Holder shares the dialogue of the first episode of *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*, describing the new generation of female heroines

Giles: Into each generation, a Slayer is born. One girl, in all the world, a Chosen One. One born with...

Buffy: ...the strength and skill to hunt the vampires, to stop the spread of evil. (Golden, 1998, p 2).

The heroines have evolved into strong independent women, who are confident and stand up for what they believe in. The young adult female readers can relate to the heroines in the "Modern" vampire literature because they possess similar characteristics of caring, independent, and romantic involvement. L.J. Smith helped show the caring side of the new heroines in her novel *The Awakening*, "She could still see the tinge of red on his lips, but now it awakened a thrill of pity along with the instinctive horror. To be so alone, so alien and so alone..." (Smith, 2007, p 211). The

heroines of today are powerful and caring.

The Evolution

The evolution of the vampires and heroines in vampire novels has been a long road. "In the last 250 years, the vampire has covered considerable ground as a fictional character. It has become almost the opposite of its original nature, and it has filled virtually every starring and supporting role there is to play" (Guiley, 2007, p 22). Both vampires and the heroines in the novels change to relate to lives of the readers of the time they are in. If female readers start to become more homely then the heroines will become more dependent. If the outcasts start to be praised, then the vampires will be praised rather than being feared.

Where this trend will take us remains to be seen. It is clear, however, that vampires have mesmerized successive generations, whether in the incarnations of Count Dracula, *Dark Shadows*, Vampire Lestat, *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*, and *Twilight*, *True Blood*, and beyond. (Guiley, 2011, p xi).

CONCLUSION

Vampire literature has been around since Biblical times as evidenced by the Story of Lilith:

Other entities in the paranormal otherworld rise and fall in popularity, but never the vampire. The vampire endures. Since news of the 'vampire cult made its way out of the backcountry of eastern Europe in the early 18th century, we have not let go of our fascination with this blood and life-sucking being. (Guiley, 2011, p xiii).

Stories have evolved with each century. The vampire literature changes as the interest and desires of society change. "Stoker, who died in 1912 without having achieved literary fame, glory, or fortune, would be absolutely staggered today" (Guiley, 2011, p xiii) with the popularity of the undead.

Vampires have evolved through time to adapt to the interest of their readers. "Since its 18th-century rollout, those different facets have been plumbed in fan-

tasy and fiction: the predatory vampire, the cursed vampire, the romantic vampire, the living vampire, the hybrid vampire, the do-gooder vampire" (Guiley, 2011, p xiii). The different characteristics of the vampires listed show how the change in time transformed them from monsters to beings that are relatable and desired. There are "three main types of vampires. Each of which grows and mutates independently of the others" (Guiley, 2011, p xiii) to appeal to different readers. The three main types are: the folkloric return dead, the literary vampire, and the living vampire.

Results from the data collected from *Worldcat* have shown that vampire young adult books have been gaining in popularity since the mid 1990s. The data from *Worldcat* showed vampire young adult novels were increasing: 41 books in 2007, 48 books in 2008, 49 books in 2009, and 74 books in 2010. More vampire books have been written for that genre. There have already been 50 books written in the mid-2011. The characters and their situations relate to the situations young adults are experiencing today. The readers want characters they can relate to, undead or not.

Research can be improved by tracking the publications of vampire young adult novels each year and by keeping a log of the main vampires and heroines characters. By keeping a log of the publications of vampire novels each year, there can be better data collected to prove that there is a rise in vampire young adult novels. The main vampire characters and the heroines log can help track the trends of what young adults want.

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Spotlight on Storytelling

How Public Libraries can Support Critical Literacy Requirements Through Storytelling

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Mississippi, known for its hospitality and giving, is also known for its low literacy levels.

With the national push to adopt the Common Core State Standards Initiative, the bar is being raised even higher and the struggle to maintain a level of proficiency is yet harder. Because public libraries and schools have a common goal to promote reading, it is only natural that literacy skills are emphasized.

Early literacy is vital to a child's future success in school. Preschool programming can support the Big 5 reading skills that include phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary, fluency, and comprehension. Public libraries can easily incorporate alphabet recognition and sounds into their story sessions. Many picture books contain vocabulary that is larger than everyday conversation and adds to the child's collection of words. By asking the children to look at the cover of a book and make a prediction about what will happen in the story, children learn reading for purpose. Modeling the flow of the sentences with pause and expression while reading aloud teaches preschoolers how language flows. This example helps parents who will be reading aloud at home. *Becoming a Nation of Readers* (1985) states: "The single most important activity for building the knowledge required for eventual success in reading is reading aloud to children."

Nursery rhymes and poetry teach children about word families through rhyming words. In Mem Fox's *Reading Magic*, she records that children who can recite nursery rhymes at age 4 are lead readers at age 8 because of mastering this skill.

Often a child's lack of knowledge or experiences is a barrier to reading comprehension. Sessions that provide activities that build familiarity with concepts about colors and numbers are beneficial. Weekly themes introduce children to a greater awareness about their community and the world.

Providing discussion after reading aloud helps the young child with memory. Identifying the elements of the story with questions about the characters, theme and plot, and setting develops deeper understanding. To pick out important parts and to recall events in sequence prepares the young child for analysis and higher order thinking skills.

The arts support literacy development and increase motivation for learning. Research indicates that children learn through mental and emotional filters. If a child perceives an

Storytelling in the Classroom or Library

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"Tilly, Tillllly, Tilllly I'm on the third step and I'm coming to get you!" I watch my student's faces as I tell this classic jump tale (a story guaranteed to make a person "jump" with the ending) and see their eyes grow bigger and bigger as the voice climbs each step. "Tilly, Tillllly, Tilllly, I'm at your door and I'm coming to get you!" The kids anticipate something but don't know what!

My principal entered and I noticed him just standing by one of the bookcases, glasses in his hand, but he indicated for me to continue. By the point in the story where the "it" reaches the last step and enters the room, students are on the edge of their seats, and as the tale ends with the student's scream, Mr. P says, "I couldn't leave; I had to know what happened to Tilly!" Stories capture everyone's attention, even adults. Stories bridge the gap between generations, it makes no age discrimination.

It is no secret that the arts, including music, performing arts and storytelling contributes much to a student's overall success in a school setting. With all the technology available to students today, they come to school wanting to be entertained and engaged while learning. Stories come in such a wide variety of genres that almost all students can learn helpful skills through the art of storytelling. As a professional storyteller and public school librarian, I use stories every day in my middle school library.

So how do I use this particular story? There are many skills that can be tied in to this one spooky jump tale, made popular by the African American storyteller, Jackie Torrence. Of course the first question asked was, "What was it?" With the older students, we tossed about several ideas creating a word chart. Next as students completed checking out books, they were to write what they thought the voice was, adding vivid descriptive words. With younger students, we completed drawings of their idea of "it".

Even a sequencing activity with picture cards showing the different steps matching the step with Tilly's reaction could be utilized. This can also be used to introduce the Dewey Decimal System to students. After the story, explore the different areas of the library a book like this could be found.

Stories can open the world of imagination, and appeal to a wide variety of audiences, but so many teachers and librarians are afraid to tell a story. Keep in mind that a story does not always have to be told, using a good book can create as much interest as a good story. There are several things to keep in mind

How Public Libraries can Support Critical Literacy Requirements Through Storytelling, continued

event as too rigid, he or she may tune out information. Using the arts however, opens the door to learning.

Using music in story time sessions is an opportunity for the child to be engaged without the feeling of being isolated. Singing and playing rhythm instruments are tools for learning language and concepts. Puppets may be used to teach information and life skills. Dramatizing stories provides children with openings to learn about voice, movement, and space. Simple props initiate imaginative possibilities. Uncomplicated crafts afford children the pleasure of utilizing their creativity. The arts provide an environment that stimulates the senses for purposeful and responsive learning.

Public libraries are strategically positioned to assist with early literacy instruction. Providing literacy experiences and using the arts to encourage learning are positive steps for preparing young children to grasp reading readiness skills to meet school standards.

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Storytelling in the Classroom or Library, continued

though when choosing a story or book for the classroom. First, ask yourself, "Do I like this story?" If you don't like it, I guarantee that your audience will not like it either. Next, decide what skill you would like to reinforce. Are you looking for a sequencing activity, try a story that has a lot of steps. Are you looking for a writing activity, look for a story that the ending can be manipulated. What about adding voice to a story? Don't forget to give the characters different voices, even in reading a book.

Why the Frog has Big Eyes, by Betsy Franco, is an excellent book for adding voice to characters. Students will also enjoy acting this story out as a play. I love watching different children playing the parts, I learn as much from them as they do from me some days.

Lastly, you must be enthusiastic about the story or book, reading it with great expression. Look at your audience, try to look each person in the eye at least one, you will be amazed how this one simple gesture will get a person involved in the story. When the audience is involved in the story, especially children, they are more likely to identify the skill or outcome that is the teller's goal.

Storytelling is an art form that has been practiced for many generations, with the passing down of tales from generation to generation, preserving history and culture. But it can be so much more than just entertainment, so pick a great book or story, pick a skill, and get ready to hold an audience in your hands.

About Books

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FICTION

Atkins, Ace. *The Lost Ones*. New York: G. P. Putman's Sons, 2012. 339 pp. \$25.95 (hardcover).

Quinn Colson, a veteran and former Army Ranger, returns in Ace Atkins *The Lost Ones*, as the sheriff of Tibbehah County, Mississippi. He is overwhelmed with two cases – a Mexican drug cartel running a gun ring and a child abuse case involving the selling of helpless children. His chief deputy, Lillie Virgil, is focused on finding the child abusers and bringing them to justice. Colson's new love interest, an FBI agent, is determined to locate and prosecute the Mexicans involved in the gun ring, leading them to suspect Donnie Varner, Colson's childhood friend.

Colson is a no-nonsense military man, and is also a man of moral and family responsibility. He works hard to balance his work with government leaders to clean up his county from corrupt politicians, and spend time with his nephew whose mother has returned from periodical bouts of absence. Colson also works hard to separate himself from working in the shadow of his Uncle Hamp, the former sheriff. The author hints of Colson discovering more about his uncle's death in future novels.

Even though Atkins provides some backstory of Colson's history with the town, there is a disadvantage for not having read the first book that introduces Colson. At times during conversations between characters, the reader can be easily confused by the discussions relating to past events. Characters are also mentioned without introducing them into the story, such as Tiny and Shane. The author expects the reader to know who they are and how they are involved in the story.

This book will not appeal to all audiences due to the graphic and difficult subject matter of child abuse and the strong language. However, public libraries and

academic libraries with a strong local fiction collection will want to add this book to their collection for the fans of fast-paced fiction set in the rural areas of Mississippi.

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Hussey, Elaine. *Sweetest Hallelujah*. Don Mills, Ontario: Harlequin MIRA, 2013. 352 pp. \$15.95 (paperback).

Set in Mississippi in 1955, this novel tells the story of two women from vastly different backgrounds who find their lives connected by way of a little girl named Billie. Ex-jazz singer Betty Jewel Hughes is dying, and doesn't want her ten-year-old daughter Billie to end up in the care of her ne'er-do-well ex-husband Saint. Betty Jewel takes out an advertisement in the local newspaper to find a good, loving home for her child. Recently widowed Cassie Malone, who works for the newspaper, decides that there is a good story in interviewing Betty Jewel.

The author vividly describes the locations and characters in Sweetest Hallelujah. It is very easy for the reader to picture the various settings such as Shakerag, downtown Tupelo and Tiny Jim's juke joint. One can almost taste the barbecue at Tiny Jim's. Betty Jewel, Cassie, Billie, Queen and many other characters in the book are also well-written and are shown to have very definite personalities.

Although this book is published by Harlequin, it is not a romance novel. It is instead a portrayal of life during the segregated south of the 1950s. The book has an underlying theme of tragic events and racism, but also contains hope for the future and the possibility of happiness. The events in the novel move along at a fairly quick pace. The author provides questions for discussion as well as an author interview at the end of the book, which would make this novel a good title for discussion groups.

This book would be perfectly suited to a public library collection.

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NONFICTION

Danielson, Chris. *After Freedom Summer: How Race Realigned Mississippi Politics, 1965-1986*. Gainesville, FL: University Press of Florida, 2011. 294 pp. \$69.95 (hardcover).

The Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965 will soon be celebrating 50 years since their passing, and Danielson's comprehensive book explains the political climate in Mississippi after these acts removed legalized segregation from the South. He explains the cerebral turns African Americans in Mississippi made, such as testing the black independent candidates against the black democrat candidates for local elections. He also demonstrates white and black Mississippians jockeying for the vote in race after race and the new strategies that changed a born white Democrat into a card-carrying white Republican during the "Great White Switch."

The narrative is not an easy read. At times it can be confusing with all of the acronyms. The first three chapters become an alphabet soup while breaking down the alliances at the poles represented by these factions. The Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party (MFDP), a grassroots party organized from Freedom Summer's Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), Council of Federated Organizations (COFO), and the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE), fought for the same votes as the top-down organization represented by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).

The continuous race results give a stop and start feel to the narrative. Danielson reports about black candidates' results in a 70% white county, or white candidates who cater to the black vote because the county is 80% black. There are a number

of notable black firsts, such as Charles Evers being elected as the first mayor in Fayette and Robert Gray being elected as the first black alderman in the town of Shelby, but they are mentioned as side notes to the races. The ballot count and any legal action that takes place after elections are the important facts in this book. Danielson's narrative excels in describing the major politicians at the time.

For instance, Charles Evers was a vastly different man from his brother, Medgar. Charles worked on voter's registration until white hostility ran him out of Mississippi. He moved to Chicago and while there he engaged in legal and illegal work resulting in prostitution and numbers running charges that haunted him throughout his career. He returned home for his brother's funeral and took over Medgar's position as head of the NAACP in Mississippi.

Although *After Freedom Summer* can be a challenge to read it is not without merit. Danielson's book is well researched. He draws extensively from primary sources such as interviews and court documents. The index can be used by any higher education student to navigate and extract facts for school papers, and the bibliography suggests resources for further learning. This book is recommended for any library, particularly academic libraries, interested in resources on Civil Rights or Mississippi history.

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Finch, Bill et al. *Longleaf, far as the eye can see: a new vision of North America's richest forest*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2012. 192 pp. \$35.00 (hardcover).

For a longleaf pine forest to thrive, a unique set of circumstances must come together. The same can be said for the idea behind this book. Photographer Beth Maynor Young met Rhett Johnson, the director of the Longleaf Alliance, while she was gathering images for a forestry text. Together, Johnson and Young discovered that they had a shared passion for the longleaf forest and dreamed of creating a book that showcased the longleaf ecosystems through the use of "evocative im-

agery". The team expanded to include Bill Maynor's wildlife photography to tell the complete story of the forest life. In order to compliment the photographs with a narrative of equal quality Bill Finch and John Hall were tasked with writing the text portion of the work. Some of the sections of the text were borrowed from expertise of other writers.

Although highly illustrated, this is much more than a coffee-table book and to call it such is to do a disservice to the quality of text that accompanies the brilliant photographs. The authors and photographers have collaborated to paint an all-encompassing picture of the past, present, and a projection of the future of the longleaf pine forest. Photographs show the forest as it was a hundred years ago and contrast with modern-day photographs to demonstrate how the timber industry has decimated this ancient species of tree. Estimated to be at one time 90 million acres, the longleaf pine comprised one of North America's largest forest ecosystems. Today, approximately three percent of that sprawling natural wonder remains.

The book is divided into sections that focus on: the legend and history of the longleaf pine; the characteristics of the trees; the flora and fauna that call the forest home; the role of fire in the life cycle of the longleaf forest; the role of the military in preserving and using the forest for national defense purposes; and the ongoing efforts to conserve and restore the longleaf forest ecosystem. A point of emphasis in the entire book is the role that fire plays in the regeneration and continuation of the forest. Frequent fires burn off the vegetation on the forest floor and provide nourishing nutrients for the trees. With the advent of fire safety, the frequency of these necessary burnings has been reduced. Efforts to conserve and rebuild longleaf forests incorporate controlled burns to maintain the natural cycle of the longleaf forest ecosystem.

This book is highly recommended for any library, especially those interested in natural history or the landscape of Mississippi. It could also be beneficial to those interested in photography or who simply want to look at beautiful photographs of nature.

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Hillman, Jimmye. *Hogs, Mules, and Yellow Dogs: Growing Up on a Mississippi Subsistence Farm*. Tucson: University of Arizona Press, 2012. 267 pp. \$19.95 (paperback).

Jimmye Hillman grew up during the Depression in Greene County, Mississippi, located in the southeastern corner of the state. *Hogs, Mules, and Yellow Dogs* is a memoir of his life, put together in a series of vignettes, revealing what life was really like for subsistence farmers in southeastern Mississippi. While he tells his personal story, he relates the history of the Hillman family as well. The author discourses on hogs, mules, farming, hunting, timber, politics, sex, food, and most importantly, on the way of life the people experienced in that era and locality.

In writing about the specifics of his life on a southeastern Mississippi farm, Mr. Hillman has created a permanent memory of that period and area. His stories of farm life in Mississippi resonated with this reviewer's later experience of farm life in upstate New York. In this way, the book reveals a similarity of human experience that transcends time and place.

Hogs, Mules, and Yellow Dogs gives a vivid picture of life without modern amenities such as electricity, indoor plumbing, or easy access to news from outside the immediate locality. While the author alludes to the back-breaking work that is farming, the reader, however, does not get enough of the sense of the daily grind of farming. His memories, rather, are of the special events that made his life meaningful.

While hogs were the primary source of meat for the Hillman family, the number of hog stories seemed excessive, and somewhat repetitive. This, however, is a minor flaw in a very evocative book. *Hogs, Mules, and Yellow Dogs* is recommended for academic libraries and public libraries with a strong interest in Mississippi history.

Sheryl Stump
Cataloger/Associate Professor
Delta State University

News Briefs

Tina Harry

Catalog & Assistant Automation
Librarian and Associate Professor
University of Mississippi

VANCLEAVE LIBRARY BP "FABRIC OF AMERICA" DONATION

The Vancleave Public Library recently was selected by library patron and BP employee Rhad F. Carter to receive a \$300 donation. He recommended his library as an organization that makes a positive contribution to his community to a BP grant fund.

Through the Fabric of America Fund, BP is supporting the groups that make up the "fabric of America" organizations across the US that work to improve people's lives. The Fabric of America Fund considers contributions to organizations recommended by BP employees.

Library manager Yvonne Parton said, "We are pleased we have been chosen for this grant and will put it to good use serving our patrons here."

For more information about the library, call 826-5857 or visit 12604 Highway 57, near the schools.



Photograph by JGRLS staff

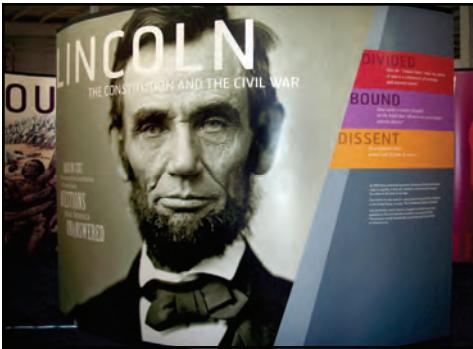
Yvonne Parton, Vancleave branch manager, receives a check for \$300 from Rhad Carter, BP employee and library patron, to the library from The Fabric of America Fund for being recognized as an organization that supports the community.

Submitted by

Rex Bridges
PR & Marketing Manager
Jackson-George Regional Library System

HINDS COMMUNITY COLLEGE HOSTED LINCOLN EXHIBIT

As part of the Sesquicentennial of the American Civil War, Hinds Community College hosted a prestigious national traveling exhibit from Aug. 12 through Sept. 20 at the McLendon Library on the Raymond Campus. Along with the 1,000-foot exhibit, "Lincoln: The Constitution and the Civil War," the library held a series of performances and lectures during the month of September featuring local talent from Hinds, Jackson State University, MS College and the Battle Focus. The exhibit was organized by the National Constitution Center and the American Library Association and was made possible by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.



NCC exhibit photograph ©2009 Alusiv, Inc.

Submitted by
Mary Beth Applin
District Dean of Libraries
Hinds Community College

ULYSSES S. GRANT PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Ulysses S. Grant Presidential Library (USGPL) at Mitchell Memorial Library, Mississippi State University, has recently

expanded its holdings of books and ephemera, thanks to some generous donors. Carolyn Andrews, from Colorado, donated over 900 books covering various topics on Lincoln, Grant, and the Civil War, and Dr. Joseph Prezio, a retired physician in Utica, New York, made another donation of Civil War books. This fall, USGPL will be receiving a donation of over 4,000 Civil War books, bringing the USGPL's collection of books to over 10,000.

Jorja Lynn of Holly Springs, MS, donated a substantial personal collection of Grant ephemera that she and her late husband, Mike Lynn, had built over a number of years. The framed portraits and other pieces, including a bronze bust sculpted soon before Grant's death in 1885, once resided in the historic Walter House in Holly Springs, where Julia Grant and the children resided while Union troops occupied Mississippi.

Descendants of U.S. Grant from San Diego donated a large collection of items, including rare books, framed portraits, and nineteenth-century china. These heirlooms have been passed down in the Grant family for generations and now are in the care of the USGPL.

In addition to the new items in the USGPL collections, new staff members have joined the Library. David Nolen, a former reference librarian at Mississippi State, is now Assistant Editor at the USGPL. Bob Karachuk, who comes from the Adams Papers in Boston, is taking Associate Editor Aaron Crawford's place while he is on a one-year fellowship at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, TX.

USGPL continues to offer educational opportunities at Mississippi State University and around the state. The traveling "Lincoln and Grant" exhibit, recently piloted at the Columbus Public Library, is available to any Mississippi library that wishes to display it.

September 23-25, 2013, USGPL, MSU Libraries, Shackouls Honors College, the African American Studies Program, and the Office of the President will host a symposium on the 2012 movie *Lincoln* starring Daniel Day-Lewis as Abra-

ham Lincoln. There will be two screenings of the movie and a full day of lectures and panels September 24. There is no admission fee to any of the events.

Please contact us at USGPresidentialLibrary@library.msstate.edu or call 662-325-4552 with inquiries.

*Submitted by
Meg Henderson
Senior Library Associate
Ulysses S. Grant Presidential Library
Mitchell Memorial Library
Mississippi State University*

People in the News

Tina Harry

*Catalog & Assistant Automation Librarian and Associate Professor
University of Mississippi*

The Mississippi Library Commission Board of Commissioners (MLC) is pleased to announce the appointment of Susan Young Swindell Cassagne, of Natchez, Mississippi, as the new Executive Director of the Mississippi Library Commission. She will assume her duties October 1, 2013.

"Those of us on the Board look forward to working with Susan Cassagne. She brings a wealth of experience and knowledge of all types of libraries, as well as many years of experience working with the Mississippi Legislature and with our National Congressional Leaders. We know that library supporters across the state will welcome her as she begins a new, exciting phase of her library career," said MLC Board Chair Dr. Glenda Segars.

Cassagne currently serves as Director of the Judge George W. Armstrong Library System formerly the Natchez-Adams-Wilkinson Library Service/Homochitto Valley Library Service in Natchez, Mississippi.

Prior to accepting the director's position, she was the Assistant Director/Technology Coordinator of the Pearl River County Library System in Picayune, Mississippi.

She graduated from Louisiana State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in General Studies; and a Master of Library and Information Science degree from the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg.

A seasoned leader and well respected among her peers, Cassagne is an active member of the Mississippi Library Association (MLA) where she served as President in 2005 and 2006, chaired the Legislative Committee from 2010-2013, and the local arrangements committee for three MLA conferences held in Natchez. In addition to an MLA membership, she is a member of the American Library Association and the Public Library Association.

Cassagne, an active member of the Mississippi State Society Daughters of the American Revolution, served on the State Board of Management as a State Officer and as a National Vice Chairman. She also served the State Society on several National and State Committees.

On the local level, she is a member of the Friends of the Armstrong Library, Rotary Club of Natchez, Natchez Historical Society, Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration Advisory Board, Natchez Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution, Pilgrimage Garden Club, Natchez Food & Wine Festival, Natchez Downtown Development Association, Krewe of Phoenix, and Krewe of Killarney.

"I look forward to leading the Mississippi Library Commission and working with Mississippi's public libraries through a commitment to leadership, advocacy and public service," Cassagne says of her new position.

She lives in Natchez with her husband, Gabriel (Gabe); they have four children, Juliette, Andre, Richard, and Elizabeth.



Mary Beth Applin was recently elected to the HBCU Library Alliance Board as the 2 Year College representative. She replaces outgoing board member Jean Greene, also from Hinds Community College. The HBCU Library Alliance is a consortium that supports collaboration of information

professionals dedicated to providing resources for Historically Black Colleges and Universities and their constituents. Hinds Community College is a member of the HBCU through its relationship with the HindsCC-Utica campus, originally established in 1903 as Utica Normal & Industrial Institute for the Training of Colored Young Men and Young Women. Utica became part of the Hinds Community College District in 1982.

The School of Library and Information Science at Southern Miss welcomes Dr. Matthew Griffis to the faculty. Dr. Griffis received his Ph.D. from the University of Western Ontario. His research interests include history of libraries, library architecture, library as place, and public library and society. Additional information about Dr. Griffis can be found at <http://www.usm.edu/library-information-science/dr-matthew-griffis>

Dr. Elizabeth Haynes has been named as Director of the School of Library and Information Science at Southern Miss. Dr. Haynes has been on the faculty of SLIS since 1998.



Alison Bentley has been named the new Head Librarian for the Batesville Public Library in Batesville, MS.

The DeSoto County native gradu-

ated from Southaven High School and obtained her undergraduate degree in History from East Carolina University in Greenville. Alison spent a year as an Americorp Vista volunteer before going to UT Knoxville, where she completed her Master's in Library Science. "I worked in public libraries as an undergraduate. I discovered my love for library reference work there," she said. "I'm happy to return to public libraries—especially to a system like First Regional Library, The Peoples' Place for Lifelong Learning. I'm enjoying meeting the people of Batesville and look forward to serving the community as Head Librarian."

MLA 2013 AWARD WINNERS

Ruth Ann G. Gibson
Head of Technical Services
Mississippi College

During the Awards Brunch on Friday, October 18, 2013, at the IP Casino and Resort, Biloxi, worthy professional librarians, paraprofessionals, Friends, library science students, and citizens were recognized for various endeavors. Ruth Ann Gibson, chairperson of the MLA Awards Committee, acted as host of the event.

Marty Coleman, First Regional Library, recognized winners who had been honored at meetings held earlier at the conference. The **Virginia Brocks-Shedd Scholarship** recipient was announced at the Black Caucus meeting. Marsha Belton, reference assistant and interlibrary loan manager at Mississippi Valley State University, was the winner.

Phillip Carter II received the **Peggy May Scholarship**. Carter, formerly employed with Bolivar County Library System, is currently enrolled at the University of Southern Mississippi completing his MLIS degree.

The **Beta Phi Mu Scholarship** went to Callie Wiygul, an MLIS candidate at USM. Wiygul collaborated with the Curator of Collections at Biloxi's Ohr-O'Keefe Museum to organize a volunteer cataloging project.

The Friends of Mississippi Libraries presented two awards. The winner of the **Chapter One Award** was the Friends of the Waynesboro-Wayne County Library.

The **Ruby Assaf Presidential Award** went to Linda Hanberry from the Friends of the Margaret Reed Crosby Memorial Library.

Wendy Cartwright, Yazoo County School District, and Julie Thornton, Mississippi College, presented six public relations awards selected by the Awards Committee.

Pass Christian Public Library won in the **Best Newsletter** category for its monthly newsletter, *Love Your Library News*. In an effort to publicize the classes,

movies, and other events offered by Pass Christian Public Library, the Head of Circulation, Phyllis Brack, volunteered to take event information, press releases, and photographs from other staff members and produce a monthly newsletter called *Love Your Library News*. Brack supplements the text and photos with graphics and cartoons. When the newsletter is in its final format, it is emailed to the IT department at headquarters to be printed in color. Even before the printed copy is received, the newsletter is emailed to the people on the library's Gmail list and posted to the library's Facebook page.



Pass Christian Public Library Award

Pass Christian Library has found this to be "a great and low cost way to publicize the library's numerous activities " to the 4,600 residents of the city. The Awards Committee enjoyed the use of color, clip-art, and photos along with the lighthearted presentation of the information.

First Regional Library took the award for **Best Effort by Several Libraries to Promote Library Services Around a Single Theme or Event**. In an effort to display First Regional Library's impact on the community, the staff conducted a "Snapshot Day " during National Library Week 2013. Patrons were alerted that all the system branches would be taking photos on April 17 showing a typical day in the life of a public library. And, the public did not disappoint! All of the branches were surprised at how many patrons were not only willing to have their pictures taken in the library, but also at the number who came to the library because it was Snapshot Day.



First Regional Library award

In addition to having their pictures taken, patrons could fill out forms describing "Why the Library Is Important to Me " and explaining how the library made a difference in their lives.

The photos and quotes have been used on a new Facebook page and in a YouTube video highlighting some of the best quotes and photos. A bonus use has been in the creation of "Builds Community " budget presentation materials using photos and quotes earmarked specifically to each community. Local funding officials have reacted very positively to seeing how important the libraries are to their constituents.

The Awards Committee loved the simplicity of this idea and how it could easily be replicated. Committee members also appreciated the way this effort branded the library as belonging to the people. David Brown is public relations specialist for First Regional.

Introducing a marketing campaign focusing on social media, Lafayette County & Oxford Public Library (LCOPL) won the **Best Year-Round Effort by an Individual Library to Publicize Library Services in General**. The Lafayette County & Oxford Public Library's goal was to make interconnected and concerted use of various social media to promote the library's activities and to share the library with the online population, resulting in successful marketing of library materials and services to a larger community of possible patrons.

Through coordinated use of Facebook, Twitter, Goodreads, YouTube, and the LCOPL blog at Wordpress, the library staff has managed to insure larger crowds

at events, promote reading to a wider audience, and share the daily happenings in the library. Creating these social media entries and posts was a team effort that has made staff feel more connected to their jobs and to the people they serve. The social media presence has also provided the library with a sense of character and personality to which people can relate.

The local YouTube videos have received a fantastic reception. The newest addition to the social media effort is Goodreads in which staff members engage in discussions about books and reading with group members. It also allowed for promotion of the library's Books & Lunch programs with authors.

The LCOPL blog featured a week-long series for Banned Books Week that asked local and nationally recognized authors to give their thoughts on censorship and a series of library "secrets" highlighted National Library Week. The response to the book reviews, event calendar, FAQs, and links to informational databases on the LCOPL blog has been extremely positive. A real indicator of the success of the overall effort is that users have started referring to the library as LCOPL.

The LCOPL's social media presence is coordinated with all contributions fluidly linked together. Interconnecting all of the social media platforms has provided a convenient way for the prospective audience to keep up with all of LCOPL's online public relations efforts, reinforced the cohesive sense of personality and humor that are used for LCOPL's online presence, and has made it easy for patrons and organizations to share what is posted, thus increasing the number of people who know about LCOPL. Laura Beth Walker is head librarian.

Three separate libraries were recognized for **Best Effort by an Individual Library to Publicize Library Services Around a Single Theme or Event:** Special Collections, University of Southern Mississippi; Pass Christian Public Library; and Emily J. Pointer Library, Como.

In February 2007, Special Collections at the University of Southern Mississippi started a new online feature called Item of the Month. Each month, a Special Collections curator or staff member selects an item (which can be a letter, book, photograph, telephone directory, or maybe a wedding announcement) which is then researched, scanned or photographed, and

made accessible online. The books, manuscripts, ephemera, and realia featured in the Item of the Month can be found in the University Archives, Historical Manuscripts, de Grummond Children's Literature Collection, Mississippiana, and Rare Books, which are all located in Special Collections found in McCain Library & Archives.



USM Archives Award

The Awards Committee appreciated the fact that this group of people is working with oddities, the esoteric, and the rare. In other words, they are *not* working with the easily promotable bestseller list! USM Special Collections managed to create a lively and anticipated monthly feature for promoting the collections. Researchers from around the world contact Special Collections with questions about specific items to address research needs, donate similar materials, or ask appraisal questions on comparable items that they own. One USM professor made the Item of the Month a project for her research methods class and a music professor contributed a description for a 16th century antiphoner.

To promote Item of the Month worldwide, Special Collections uses mail lists, library homepages, and Facebook. The monthly items are also archived online which allows for continual access to those who conduct Web searches. Jennifer Branock is Curator of Rare Books and Mississippiana at McCain Library, USM.

The second library honored in this category was Pass Christian Public Library. In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, the Pass Christian area lost almost one third of its population. The library was housed in a trailer from November 2005 through June 2010 when the new Pass Christian Public Library was finally opened. The library staff sought ways to bring the people back to the library. With a successful Smithsonian exhibit in 2011 that also included Concerts in the Courtyard

and a Brown Bag Lecture Series, the Words and Music Community Series was born. As is evident in the name, the Words and Music Community Series combines a "word" portion with a "music" portion. For the 2nd Annual Words and Music event, the library secured funding through a grant from the Mississippi Development Authority. The second series began in December 2012 with the presentation of "Mark Twain 100 Years Later" to a standing room only crowd. This was followed in January with a story teller. The library then partnered with Pass Christian Books to host Dr. Lawrence Powell who spoke about his book, *The Accidental City*. The series concluded in March 2013 with a Cajun concert.

Each program had a strong public relations effort, including posters, press releases in local newspapers and magazines, social media, handouts, public service announcements on Mississippi Public Broadcasting and local area radio stations, and interviews with program presenters on WLOX. As a result of this programming effort, almost 500 people attended the four events held in the town with a population of 4,500.



Emily J. Pointer Library award

The final winner in this PR category is the tiny Emily J. Pointer Library. With a population of 1,291, Como, Mississippi, proudly claims author, playwright, poet, artist, and renowned drama critic Stark Young as its native son. To pay homage to Young, Emily J. Pointer Library organized a March 2013 tribute to salute his many accomplishments.

The Tribute's mission was three-fold:

- 1) Improving literacy by lighting a literary fire under the town with a large first grade literary project, an effort to spark the next Stark Young;
- 2) Revealing the Stark Young United for Libraries literary marker; and

3) Boosting the number of materials in the library's Stark Young Collection, thereby giving the library a better chance to lead patrons and community members in reexamining and celebrating Young's literary contributions.

The library held collaborative conversations about literacy in the community with North Panola Schools, Son Edna Foundation, and O.B. McClinton Community Center Foundation. A First Grade Book Brigade of 10 volunteers spent over 40 cumulative hours in the classroom leading writing workshops for first graders. In addition, artist Chuck Galey, who is part of the Mississippi Arts Commission Teaching Artist roster, led two days of illustration workshops for the children. As a result, local first graders wrote and illustrated their own stories that were revealed at a book signing at the Tribute.

Each first grade author who uses the library is now treated like royalty and eagerly reads his or her story to accompanying patrons, which keeps the excitement level high. Much to the delight of the library staff, the children will even approach strangers to listen to their stories.

Over the summer it was announced that due in part to the tremendous impact of the Stark Young Tribute, Stark Young and Como have been added to the Southern Literary Trail, a three state collaborative literary trail. Alice Pierotti is the branch manager in Como.

On behalf of the School Libraries Section, Venetia Oglesby presented the **Barbara Carroon Apple Award** to Dianne Butler from Magee Middle School. Butler is a popular story teller who does an outstanding job getting middle school students to read.



Dianne Butler

The Immediate Past President of MLA, Stephen Cunetto, announced that Alex P. Watson won the **Past Presidents' Award** that recognizes an outstanding be-

ginning professional librarian. Watson is a reference librarian at J.D. Williams Library, University of Mississippi, and serves as editor of *Mississippi Libraries*.



Alex Watson

The **Mary Julia Anderson Award** honors the beloved MLA executive secretary and recognizes outstanding contributions by a paraprofessional member of the Association in several categories of library work. This year's winner was Mona Swayze, who began working in libraries as a page at the Columbia-Marion County Public Library while in high school. After attending college and starting a family, she



Mona Swayze

returned to the library in 2009 as a cataloging clerk. Her duties included cataloging and processing all materials purchased for the three branches of the South Mississippi Regional Library System. Never limiting herself by a job description, she made it a priority to stay abreast of publishing trends and soon began suggesting titles for purchase. Swayze now orders all adult library materials except DVDs. Active in MLA, she has served on MLA committees and proofreads for local authors.

Swayze seeks opportunities to receive training that might benefit the library and will volunteer for any task or project that will promote the library and reading. When the library's adult programming faltered due to the lack of an adult services librarian, she started planning and

promoting programs for the library. She held author readings, book signings, art shows, gardening workshops, and a literary festival. In 2012, she organized the library's centennial celebration.

Besides working with the headquarters' staff, she assists branch managers with their programs and even volunteers at the branches when they are understaffed or need help with large projects such as weeding and inventory.

The nomination explained Mona Swayze's devotion to the library this way, "It is not because she feels obligated to do so, or because she is being adequately compensated for her service, but because she loves the library and the community in which she lives."

The **Outstanding Achievement Award** recognizes a librarian's contributions to the field, a library trustee's promotion of libraries for improvement in the development of public libraries, or any citizen who has been instrumental in bettering public knowledge and understanding of library and professional resources, needs, and uses. This year's honoree came from the "citizen" category.

As a library patron, Joshua Prochaska saw a need in the Senatobia Public Library for a new tile floor in the meeting room and took it upon himself to respond to that need. In two months he had the needed funding, had asked local merchants to donate supplies, had recruited helpers, and had received professional training for installing the tile. He installed the ceramic floor – grout and all - in about a week. The project took a total of 210 volunteer hours.

Joshua reported that the most rewarding part of the project was "pleasing the library and seeing Mrs. Madsen's face and how she loved how it looked." Later, he added, "Volunteering is not only fulfilling to me personally, but it is crucial to making the community a better place to be."



Joshua Prochaska

Laurie Madsen notes that the "beautiful tile makes all who use the meeting room smile."

"This all sounds wonderful. We should all be so fortunate as to have a Joshua in our town. What is truly remarkable about this award winner is that he was a 12 year-old Boy Scout at the time working on his community project for the rank of Eagle Scout."

The **Library Champion Award** recognizes individuals, businesses, and community organizations for their substantial involvement with Mississippi's libraries or who have contributed time, talent, or resources that resulted in the enhancement, improvement, or recognition of library service in the State of Mississippi. The Chevron Products Company, Pascagoula Refinery, has sponsored Summer Reading Programs and other library-related events in Jackson-George Regional Library System for over 15 years.

In addition, each Christmas for many years, Chevron has brought the Mississippi Symphony Quintet and other professional music groups to the Pascagoula Public Library's Atrium for a free public concert. In 2004, for the opening of the new library in Moss Point, Chevron provided funds for the purchase of special collections, including books aimed at job seekers, vocational and academic test booklets, books about designing business plans, and books on how to start a small business.

Chevron has also played a supporting role at the county's public libraries by helping various groups within the communities that are major library partners. For example, when Katrina struck in 2005, Chevron gave out grants to local daycare centers to help them rebuild and reopen their doors as soon as possible. Daycares are served by the local public libraries with not only collections but also programs.

In 2013, Chevron more than doubled its contributions to the Summer Reading Program at Jackson-George Regional Library System. This enabled the library staff to spend less time on fund raising and more time on planning programs to make the summer fun and readable for the patrons. Helen Barlow describes Chevron's Pascagoula Refinery as "the most faithful and longest-running corporate sponsor of the Jackson-George Regional Library System."

Receiving the award on behalf of Chevron Products Company, Pascagoula Refinery was Mr. Alan Sudduth.



Alan Sudduth