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Cover image courtesy Nell Branch, Librarian, Holmes Community College Goodman Campus.

President's Page

Lynn Shurden

President, Mississippi Library Association

Being a member of the Executive Board of MLA, brings various duties with the various offices. But one of the most interesting and beneficial things to me has been to participate in the ALA Legislative Day in DC. As those of us who have been librarians in this state for many years know is that we are a close group, no matter what type of library we work. Participating in the ALA Legislative Day events is one of the things that unites all of us in the various library issues we think are important for our profession.

This year our participants included: Celia Fisher, Glenda Segars, Jolee Hussey, and Pamela Pridgen, of the Mississippi Library Commission Board of Trustees; Amanda Powers, VP/President Elect of MLA; Susan Cassagne, MLA Legislative chair; Sharman Smith, Executive Director of MLC; Jennifer Walker, MLC Director of Development and me. We traveled to our beautiful capital city to meet with our Congressmen. Arriving on Monday, Susan had arranged with Congressman Gregg Harper's office for us to have a



"behind the scenes" tour of the Library of Congress. It was an excellent tour and no matter how many times I go into this building, I still stand around in amazement when I tour it. (It is something that every librarian should put on his or her bucket list.) The next morning we were invited to have coffee with Senator Roger Wicker and his staff. At this coffee we met other Mississippians who were there for various reasons as well as meeting those bright young people who work for the

Senator. That afternoon and the entire next day we met with our Congressmen or their staff members. While this may all seem like a lot of fun, it actually is a lot of work and walking. We talk to them about the issues that are most important to us as librarians. And this year we focused on the importance of continuing LSTA funding and what it has meant to citizens in our state, including librarians in the Elementary and Secondary Education authorization, and the general concerns of the broadband needs of all libraries.

All of our Congressmen and staffs are welcoming and give us the time and attention to discuss the issues. It is always impressive to me to see the wonderful young people who fill the offices of Congress. I always come away with the feeling that we are still educating some very bright young people who are dedicated to trying to make our world a better place. The enthusiasm that each of them has for what they do is very encouraging to me. Wouldn't it be wonderful if we saw this enthusiasm and hope in the eyes of the young librarians who are being trained in our library programs today? Something to think about, perhaps.

Mississippi Job Search Websites

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INTRODUCTION

Mississippians (along with the rest of the world) overwhelmingly use Internet websites for job searching. However, the sheer number of websites to examine and the realization that not all websites are equally authoritative, current, accurate or usable, suggests frustration for the job searcher. To alleviate (or at least to lessen) the frustration, the article will provide authoritative, current, accurate and usable websites as the means to quickly find desired jobs. Also, the article will present some brief summaries of Mississippi-based or oriented websites that provide information on available job positions or links to such information.

MISSISSIPPI JOB WEBSITES

There are a number of Websites that are either maintained by the state of Mississippi or which provide information about public sector jobs in the state. For example, "The Official Web Site for the State of Mississippi" at <http://www.ms.gov/home/> provides a link to the governor's Job Fair Network and allows for online employer registration. A second website, Working in Mississippi, at <http://www.ms.gov/content/Pages/Employment.aspx> offers links to state jobs posted online, a variety of job seeker services for Mississippians, and a job search engine coordinating multiple resources for private, state, and federal state jobs in Mississippi. It is also possible to search for state jobs using various criteria (e.g., category, county, position) at the <http://agency.governmentjobs.com/mississippi/default.cfm> website link.

The Mississippi State Personnel Board at <http://www.mspb.MS.gov> is a site that identifies itself as seeking to recruit qualified individuals from all segments of society to work in virtually all Mississippi state government agencies. The Mississippi Department of Employment Security at <http://mdes.ms.gov/i-need-a-job/job-search> is a site where job hunters, having registered with the state at <http://mdes.ms.gov/i-need-a-job> can begin searching through a number of websites listing jobs targeting specific groups, such as senior citizens and veterans.

The <http://www.mde.k12.ms.us/teacher-center/job-search-assistance> website of the Mississippi Department of Education focuses on connecting Mississippi school districts with a pool of certified prospective teachers. It identifies jobs that are available throughout the state and also allows job hunters to post their resumes for consideration. A similar Mississippi Department of Employment Security website at <http://mississippi.us.jobs> links job hunters and business entities who are seeking qualified workers to the Workforce Investment Network (WIN) system in Mississippi.

While the websites for public sector jobs have proliferated in recent years, several websites do in fact stand out. The <http://www.mlc.lib.ms.us/Jobs.html> website of the Mississippi Library Commission maintains an automated database in which professional and support staff vacancies

in all libraries in the state of Mississippi are listed. It also provides website links to library job postings throughout the United States, the Mississippi State Personnel Board, and USAJOBS. The trend at this website and other websites that are maintained by public sector entities seemingly seeks to provide multiple links so that job seekers can access a variety of sites from a single point of entry.

MISSISSIPPI COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

The network of colleges and universities throughout the state of Mississippi employs thousands of individuals. Every college and university maintains a website that it is often possible to search for job openings. The <http://mdes.ms.gov/i-need-a-job> website is an ideal starting point for such searches, but two of the larger four year universities in Mississippi maintain human resource departments and/or job website links.

The <https://jobs.olemiss.edu> website of the University of Mississippi's Department of Human Resources allows users to create personal accounts where they post their resume and search for job openings throughout the Ole Miss system. The <https://www.jobs.msstate.edu> website of the Mississippi State University has similar services. In both cases, job hunters can upload completed applications, resumes, cover letters, and reference letters that are then accessible when applying for a job posting.

MISSISSIPPI NEWSPAPERS

Long before the advent of the websites, employers reached potential new hires through newspapers published on a daily, weekly, or on a less frequent basis. Mississippi newspapers have become much more active in maintaining an Internet presence, including classified advertising targeting job seekers. Many of the newspapers identified below have online classified "Help Wanted" ads, while others also allow for links to national job search sites. Others offer only online ads while others provide the full assortment of print classified ads. Still others link to regional databases or "sister publications." Finally, many such websites do allow job seekers to upload their resumes and other pertinent information. However, most newspapers that do not offer a link to, for example, Monster.com, do not offer resume upload services.

The <http://clarionledger.gannettonline.com/careerbuilder> website of the *Clarion-Ledger*, through its career builder link, offers such a link to national job search sites. Many newspapers offer links to specific jobs. The <http://www.hattiesburgamerican.com> website of the *Hattiesburg American* offers a career builder link that enables a job hunter to search over 400,000 jobs. Look to the top right corner of the screen for "Jobs," and click on the "Jobs" icon to get to the career builder link. But the <http://ads.bnnews.com/classifieds/natchez/060.html> website of the *Natchez Democrat* provides links to jobs in the Natchez metropolitan area.

The www.panolian.com/ website of *The Panolian* of Batesville, Mississippi, has a "Help Wanted" section. To get to the "Help Wanted" section, look to the left and down for the words, "View Classifieds," click on the "View Classifieds" link, and then click on the "Help Wanted" words. The <http://www.vicksburgpost.com/classifieds/job> website of *The Vicksburg Post* provides website specific job listings but not ads from its print classified section.

The <http://oxfordeagle.com/classifieds/020.html> website of *The Oxford Eagle* provides website specific job listings. The <http://cdispatch.com/classifieds> of *The Columbus Dispatch* uses local advertising only in its classifieds. The <http://meridianstar.com/monster> website of *The Meridian Star*, which is aligned with AdAmerica, includes links to national job listings throughout the Southeastern United States. The <http://www.bolivarcom.com> website of *The Bolivar Commercial* does not permit searching for jobs by type but does include print classified ads as well as Internet only ads. Look to the left and down for the "Jobs" icon, click the icon for the listings. The website <http://picayuneitem.com/monster> of *The Picayune Item* includes some classified advertising for the New Orleans area as well as regional/local Mississippi classifieds.

The <http://www.dailytimesleader.com> of *The Daily Times Reader of West Point* allows people to search for jobs in the West Point area but not to search employment classifieds by the type of job. To search for jobs, look across the center of the screen for the word, "Classifieds," click on the drop box (on the right side) of "Classifieds," look for the word, "Jobs," and click on "Jobs." The <http://starkvilledailynews.com/> website of the *Starkville Daily News* focuses on job openings in the Starkville area but does not permit searches by job type or provide links to other newspapers.

Some of these newspapers, including *The Meridian Star*, the *Picayune Item*, and the Biloxi based *Sun Herald*, provide links to national job websites, such as Monster.com at <http://www.monster.com/> or to classified ads, such as at the <http://www.careerbuilder.com/> website of Knight-Ridder, the national newspaper chain. Both Monster.com and Knight-Ridder allow job seekers to post their resumes and other information while also searching for jobs.

Other newspapers with a somewhat more expansive target market, such as a county or region also provide for classified ads and/or website links to job openings in neighboring states such as Tennessee or Monster.com and similar national sites. The *Northeast Mississippi Daily Journal* at <http://djournal.com> offers help wanted ads and search options in the northeast Mississippi region. To view look to the top left and under "dJournal.com Northeast Mississippi News," look for "See Classifieds," click on the "See Classifieds" icon, and still on the left side look down and keep spacing down until you see "classifieds," and then click on the "jobs" icon.

A number of websites maintained by newspapers are, as noted above, linked to national job search sites such as Monster.com or to sister publications. The *Desoto Appeal*, which is affiliated with the *Memphis Commercial Appeal*, does not have a separate classifieds section at the <http://www.commercialappeal.com> website, but does link job seekers to Monster.com and allows for keyword searches, resume posting, career mapping services.

The <http://www.southreporter.com/classified.html> website of *The Southern Reporter* which serves Holly Springs and Marshall County, Mississippi, contains an extensive classified ad section online but minimal help wanted ads that are mostly targeting a limited region in the vicinity of Corinth. To view, look for and click on the "Help Wanted" icon. The <http://onlinemadison.com/index.asp> website of the *Madison County Journal*, which serves Madison County, Mississippi, does not put, as a general rule, its classified ads online. The <http://www.winstoncountyjournal.com> website of the *Winston County Journal* offers some

limited classified ads but the focus there is almost exclusively on local job opportunities in the Grenada-Meridian-Louisville area, but does not offer search functions that appear to be common only in a select number of major newspapers. In contrast, the <http://www.enterprise-journal.com> website of the *Enterprise-Journal* of Pike County, Mississippi, offers search options in its online "Classifieds" link and permits selecting sub-categories within this field. To view, look across the center for the "Classifieds" icon, click the "Classifieds" icon, look down on the left for the "Job Openings" icon, and click on the "Job Openings" icon.

Mention should be made of the <http://msbusiness.com> website of the *Mississippi Business Journal*, since the website is rather unique. The website does not provide any listings of jobs per se, but does offer visitors a directory of a wide variety of Mississippi companies that have websites. For job seekers, this online search engine is useful in identifying employers in the job seeker's region or target area. The links are helpful.

Another useful website at <http://www.job-hunt.org/jobs/mississippi.shtml> provides access to Mississippi networking and job search support, job sites (including many of the newspapers that are listed above as well as areas focused on Craig's list sites) and jobs in Mississippi schools, colleges, and universities. The <http://www.wlox.com> website of the WLOX television station of Biloxi, Mississippi, also offers links to job offerings, allows keyword job searches for local, regional, and national jobs, and allows subscribers to subscribe to job categories. To view, look to the top right corner of the screen for the word, "Community" that has the word, "Jobs" above it. Click on the "Jobs" icon and fill in accordingly.

NATIONAL RESOURCES

In addition to the various search engines described elsewhere in this article, there is a number of important national public and private job search websites that can be useful to job seekers in Mississippi. The <http://regionhelpwanted.com/home/205.htm> website of Memphis Help Wanted.com lists jobs in the Memphis area. The website permits searching for jobs, but requires registration to post a resume. The <http://usajobwatch.com> website of USA Job Watch.com allows searching by state, job title, keywords, and even cities and zip codes as well as access to LinkedIn.

The <http://www.usa.jobs.topusajobs.com> website of TopUSA Jobs.com not only allows searching by city in Mississippi, but also by category, job title keywords, and job detail keywords. It also allows for online applications and resume submission. To view, click on the words, "Mississippi Jobs," which, in turn, lists many of the cities in Mississippi. The <http://www.careerbuilder.com?jobs/MS> website of Career Builder.com allows browsers to search national as well as state job openings and narrow the search by job category, companies, cities, and date of posting.

The <http://www.job-hunt.org> website of Job-Hunt is another site that allows searching by state, job sites, and other characteristics. The <http://www.indeed.com> website of Indeed.com describes itself as the number one job site worldwide and offers links to domestic and to overseas jobs, searches in Mississippi by city, and other targeted keyword searches. The

<http://www.nationjob.com> website of Nation Job is a national site that allows for keyword searching by job title, employer, location, and type.

The <http://www.linkup.com> website of Link UP coordinates job openings from 36,364 company Websites and permits searching by city or zip code but not by job title. The <http://jobchoicesonline.com> website of Job Choices Online is a site that offers job search advice for new college graduates and provides assistance on resume construction, the use of social media, advice on interviews, and broad overviews of where jobs are available and who is hiring, but does not advertise any specific job openings.

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WEBSITES

While there are many Internet sites that provide job seekers with access to information about jobs available through the federal government, two stand out. The <http://www.usajobs.gov> website of USAJOBS is the federal government's official jobs site. It allows searching by state as well as specific agencies, job categories, grades, salaries, work schedule and type, and posting date.

The <http://dcjobsource.com/fed.html> website of the Federal Job Source targets jobs that are located both in Washington, D.C. and throughout the country but does not allow searches by individual state. This site does permit searches by website links to federal agencies, to the U.S. Congress, to the White House Office of Management and Budget as well as links to the U.S. Office of Personnel Management.

CONCLUSION

This listing of online options for Mississippi job seekers is certainly not to be understood as exhaustive. The <http://regionalhelpwanted.com> website of Central Mississippi Help Wanted targets Central Mississippi and offers a very useful and targeted job search of Central Mississippi; the <http://mississippi.jobing.com> website of Jobing.com offers another very useful and targeted job search for Mississippians. The <http://mississippi.careers.org> of Careers in addition offers a very useful and targeted job search for Mississippians. The <http://www.job-searchengine.com> website of Juju-Smarter Job Search offers still another very useful and targeted job search for Mississippians

This particular listing of different job search sites does not begin to include some of the sites, such as the <http://www.taonline.com> website or the <http://www.constructionwork.com> website, which respectively list jobs for people looking for jobs after leaving the military or jobs for construction workers. The sheer volume of job search websites available on the Internet today precludes any comprehensive listing of sites that might be relevant to the diverse assortment of individuals seeking jobs in the state of Mississippi or jobs interesting to Mississippi residents. It is likely that the availability of such sites will simply increase over time.

Talk Dirty to Me: Why Books About Sex and Relationships Belong in Libraries

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INTRODUCTION: FACTS ABOUT THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

"Sexual relations at one level or another are in the minds, hearts, and bodies of teens" (Chance, 2008, p. 61). A quarter of Mississippi's population is under the age of 18. There are almost 250,000 state residents who are 10 to 19 years of age (National Center for Health Statistics, 2011). The United States is experiencing its lowest national birth rate for teens since the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) started keeping records in 1940. In 2010, the national birth rate was 31.3 per 1000 females ages 15 to 19. Even though Mississippi's birth rate has dropped 21% in the last 3 years, it still has the highest birth rate among teens with a birth rate of 55 per 1000 (Associated Press, 2012). The counties in the state with the highest teenage pregnancy rates per 1,000 among 15-19 year olds are Tunica (125.7), Quitman (116.8), and Yazoo County (58.1) (The Mississippi State Department of Health—MSDH, 2010).

Almost 58% of Mississippi's high school students have had sex, and almost 19% of them used drugs or alcohol prior to their last sexual experience (CDC, 2012). Over 11% of Mississippi's youth have sex for the first time before age 13, and Mississippi's high school freshman are more sexually active than the national average—49% versus 32.9%. The state of Mississippi ranks among the highest in the nation for chlamydia and gonorrhea infections, and teens and young adults between the ages of 15-29 years remain the leaders in new cases. From 2001-2010, HIV cases among 15-19 year olds have nearly *tripled* (MSDH, 2010). Teenagers make up almost 40% of those diagnosed with sexually transmitted diseases in Mississippi.

In February 2011, House Bill 999 was adopted. The bill required local school boards to adopt a sex education policy by June 30, 2012. School boards must implement either an abstinence-only or an abstinence-plus curriculum. Before this bill, there was no state law requiring Mississippi to teach sex education in public schools; however, schools that did choose to teach sex education before this bill were required to teach abstinence only until marriage curriculum with abstinence being the best way to prevent unplanned pregnancies and disease (MSDH, 2010).

While reports are mixed about the impact on whether teens benefit more from abstinence only or comprehensive sex education, one study from the University of Washington in Seattle found that "teenagers who received some type of comprehensive sex education were 60 percent less likely to get pregnant or get someone else pregnant" (Washington Post, 2008). A multi-year federally funded research project investigated the impact of abstinence only programs on sexual abstinence, pregnancy risks, and sexually transmitted diseases. This study found that teens in

abstinence only programs were no more likely to abstain than teens not in a program and did not wait until they were older than other teens to become sexually active (Trenholm et al., 2007).

"Considering the high rates of teenage pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases that remain in Mississippi, evidence suggests that abstinence only until marriage programs are ineffective and that a more comprehensive approach to sex education provides young people with medically sound information to make informed decisions related to sex" (MSDH, 2010, p.9).



BOOKS IN THE LIBRARY

Realistic fiction books for teens cover a variety of topics and issues ranging from the innocuous topics like friendship, or dealing with school pressure, or summer adventures to topics considered to be edgy, or even taboo by some. These more edgy books may cover topics ranging from first sexual experiences, to bullying, to sexual identity, to parental divorce or neglect, and much more. Many of the topics covered in teen realistic fiction

make adults uncomfortable. "These novels are disturbing, sometimes shocking, but they reflect the lives of today's teens – not the lives of every teen but of enough teens for the stories to be authentic" (Chance, 2008, p. 62). Issues like sexuality and sexual attraction are especially important to younger teens as their bodies and hormones are changing. These are also topics that they may not feel comfortable discussing with adults. "Exploring these issues through fiction is one way for young adolescents to ask questions and seek answers for a very important topic in their lives" (Anderson, 2007, p. 77).

Teen collections should contain materials covering a variety of interests, lifestyles, and beliefs. By covering the gamut of a topic, the library is better able to supply books for their entire population—while realizing that legitimately some books are perfectly acceptable to one person but not another. Having a broad collection insures a book choice for everyone. Collections should contain books that cover comprehensive sex education in non-fiction, including books that cover abstinence, and fiction books that cover teens making a variety of choices for a variety of reasons. The collection must be balanced (Nilsen & Donelson, 2008, p. 303). Since there are such differing opinions about what teens should know and when especially when it comes to the non-fiction topic of sex education, including a variety of books for a range of readers is essential (Anderson, 2007). But having a balanced collection means having books that may make some adults cringe and can lead to challenges and censorship of the library collection.

So how do libraries defend having books in their collections that depict teens having sex, getting pregnant, discovering their sexuality or sexual preference? The first step is to depend on your collection development policy. This policy should be current and inclusive. It should describe the service area and community and include all of the community. The policy should contain statements about the community's right to read, freedom to read, anti-censorship, the Library Bill of Rights, and should have specific statements about youth and their rights and freedom. "Collection development policy statements protect the library against external pressures" and helps ensure that challenged materials are "fairly reviewed and retained" (Johnson, 2009, p. 75).

The collection development policy should also make it clear that the library protects its employees who make the collection development decisions.

Along with the collection development policy, procedures for challenged materials should be established including a committee that reviews complaints and materials receiving complaints. Some examples of collection development policies can be found at AcqWeb's site, a place of interest for librarians on acquisitions and collection development (http://www.acqweb.org/cdv_policy). Examples of possible wording to consider including are:

- "The library recognizes that some materials are controversial and that any given item may offend some patrons. Selection of materials is not made on the basis of anticipated approval or disapproval."
- "Responsibility for the reading of youth is lies with their parents or guardians."
- "No employee shall be disciplined or dismissed for selecting library materials in good faith and in accordance with written policy."

Second, depend on the American Library Association's resources. Use their expert resources like "Strategies and Tips for Dealing with Challenges to Library Materials" and the "Intellectual Freedom Manual." Additionally, librarians should especially be versed on the following from ALA's Policy Manual on Services and Responsibilities of Libraries:

52.5.2 Sex Education Materials in Libraries: ALA affirms the right of youth to comprehensive, sex-related education, materials, programs, and referral services of the highest quality; affirms the active role of librarians in providing such; and urges librarians and library educators to reexamine existing policies and practices and assume a leadership role in seeing that information is available for children and adolescents, parents, and youth-serving professionals.

The Policy Manual's section on Intellectual Freedom also contains the following:

53.1.4 Free Access to Libraries for Minors: Lack of access to information can be harmful to minors. Librarians and library governing bodies have a public and professional obligation to ensure that all members of the community they serve have free, equal, and equitable access to the entire range of library resources regardless of content, approach, format, or amount of detail. This principle of library service applies equally to all users, minors as well as adults. Librarians and library governing bodies must uphold this principle in order to provide adequate and effective service to minors. Adopted 1972, amended 1981, 1992, 2004, and 2008 (See "Policy Reference File": Free Access to Libraries for Minors: An Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights, revised, 2007-2008 ALA CD#19.7. - PDF, 3 pgs).

Third, the librarian can find and use professional reviews and public opinion to support the inclusion of materials that some might find questionable. The fourth thing that can be done is to use the statistics about "the state of the state" of residence; for those of us in Mississippi a handy resource, "Sexually Transmitted Diseases: 2011 Fact Sheet Mississippi, produced by the MSDH and found in Appendix A.

CONCLUSION

It may be overwhelming to think about adding potentially controversial books to the library collection. Perhaps Appendix B can help. It is a list of just over 100 titles on sex, sexuality, love, dating, relationships, and more that can help get the collection started. Most of the titles are found on booklists and/or have received positive professional reviews. The handful of books not on lists or reviewed were added because of popular reviews and opinions. Hopefully, this article will give you the standing needed to "talk dirty..."

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What Are You Going to See With a Nature Camera at a Downtown Library? The Chimney Swift Tower at the Ina Thompson Moss Point Library

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ABSTRACT

In May of 2011, a group of teen volunteers participating in the VISIONS Adventure Program, with help from the Pascagoula River Audubon Center, built a chimney swift tower on the grounds of the Ina Thompson Moss Point Library (Moss Point Library). The tower, with two video cameras mounted inside it and a video monitor inside the library was completed in July of 2011. A pair of birds began roosting and nesting in the structure in May 2012. Two eggs produced hatchlings in early July 2012. By the end of the breeding season, at least one of the hatchlings had fledged, and was seen roosting with two adults nearby. The Moss Point Library, part of the Jackson-George Regional Library System headquartered in Pascagoula, Mississippi, may be the first library to host a chimney swift tower with a nature camera and the ability to record the video.

INTRODUCTION

In May of 2011, the Ina Thompson Moss Point Library was approached by the Pascagoula River Audubon Center (PRAC) about the possibility of hosting a chimney swift tower on library grounds. The PRAC had a volunteer group comprised of team of teens participating in the VISIONS Adventure program that was willing to build the structure and approached the Friends of the Moss Point Library about funding the two surveillance cameras that were going to be mounted in the structure to watch the birds during nesting, hatching, and fledging. Other equipment to be funded included a switcher and television and the necessary cables for patrons to watch the resulting video. The Friends agreed to fund the project, and the volunteers built the tower in July. The tower was designed by Paul and Georgean Kyle. The tower was built and all equipment, which included two cameras, a switcher, a monitor, cables, and a surge suppressor, installed and viewing started in July of 2011.

The library staff eagerly turned on the viewing station daily, but no activity occurred until May of 2012. Finally, a pair of chimney swifts had started roosting inside the structure. We hoped they would soon begin building a nest, and were delighted when they had the nest built by the end of May. Mozart Dedeaux, Education Coordinator from PRAC, came over on June 1 to readjust the camera for maximum nest viewing.

Having found an article about chimney swifts, the staff has made sure copies of the article are always available near the viewing station. The library purchased two books by Paul and

Georgian Kyle: *Chimney Swift Towers: A New Habitat for America's Mysterious Birds: A Construction Guide* and *Chimney Swifts: America's Mysterious Birds Above the Fireplace*².

OBSERVATIONS

On June 7, the staff noticed the first egg in the nest. The second egg appeared on June 9. We had been told by PRAC and most of the documentation³ we have about the birds' mating habits that usually the female produces an egg every other day, up to seven eggs, once she starts. The weather got very rainy for a few days, and we thought the pair were going to produce only the 2 eggs when a third egg appeared on June 14.

The pair began taking turns sitting on the nest starting June 18. The staff noticed when we came to work on Monday, June 25 that one of the three eggs was very small compared to the other two. A day later, we noticed there were only two eggs remaining in the nest, and the third appeared to have fallen (or been kicked out of) the nest to the bottom of the tower.

Based on when the last egg was produced, the staff and PRAC calculated that the eggs would hatch on or around July 2 or 3, and the babies would fledge by August 2 or 3.



Because the library would be closed for Independence Day and the eggs could hatch anywhere near that time, I thought it might be a good idea to connect a recording device to the feed from the cameras. The Friends of the Library have purchased the recorder, and Mozart Dedeaux or library system staff was able to connect it to the camera cables inside the library without disturbing the nesting pair.

On Friday, July 29, when the staff arrived, we cheered when we discovered one of the eggs had hatched and the hatchling was moving around in the nest. By Monday, July 2, the second egg had hatched and both hatchlings seem to be thriving.

During the week of July 9 to 14, one of the hatchlings fell out of the nest and eventually died. The other hatchling has been seen moving around the tower, sometimes roosting with the two adult birds. As of the week of July 23, there are sometimes more than the 3 birds roosting in the tower.

The staff continued to observe what happened during the breeding season of these little birds. Our observations were recorded on a form provided for us by the staff of the PRAC. Completed forms will be kept on file at the library and sent to the original designers of the chimney swift tower, Paul and Georgean Kyle of Austin, Texas.

In March of 2013, the cameras in the tower recorded new inhabitants; a family of squirrels had made a nest at the bottom of the tower! Staff and patrons enjoyed watching the antics of the baby squirrels as they got bigger and began climbing the walls of the tower. Unfortunately, once the babies were large enough to climb, they were also a larger problem. They started chewing on the wires and the cameras, disabling the system by the middle of April!

With further help from the Pascagoula River Audubon Center's Mozart Dedeaux and Erin Kirk, when the squirrels had left their nest for the season, Mozart and Erin removed the nesting material and cleaned out all the other debris. They also replaced the damaged camera and the wires. As of June 1, chimney swifts have been spotted roosting in the tower, but no nesting activity has been detected this year.

CONCLUSION

The Ina Thompson Moss Point Library, a branch of the Jackson-George Regional Library System in Mississippi, might be the first public library to host a nature camera for the viewing of chimney swift nesting and roosting habits. A search of periodical databases produced articles about the designers of the chimney swift tower and the building of one such tower on a school property. There has been little to nothing published about other public libraries hosting either a tower or the equipment to view what was happening inside. We would enjoy hearing from other public libraries using nature cameras in any way.

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Selling the Learning Organization

Amy Poe

Staff Development Coordinator

First Regional Library

Libraries are going through tough times, we are facing a climate of uncertain funding, an unpredictable economy, increased demand on services, and the increasing fear that technology is making our services obsolete. So, how do we sell the need to our funding agencies for money in training and career development and once we've convinced our funders, how do we convince our libraries and staff? How do we make people excited about becoming involved in creating a learning organization?

First of all, what is meant by a "learning organization"? The concept was developed in the 1990s and Peter Senge is considered to be the "father" of organizational learning and gained recognition when Senge published *The Fifth Discipline* in 1990. Rebecca Cors states "Senge proposes that people put aside their old ways of thinking (mental models), learn to be open with others (personal mastery), understand how their company really works (systems thinking), form a plan everyone can agree on (shared vision), and then work together to achieve that vision (team learning)" (Cors 2003).

A learning organization promotes efficiency and vitality. An efficient and trained workforce can deliver on the library's mission in a timely manner. Efficiency also allows staff to do the work of "today" rather than trying to catch up every day with leftover work that is never accomplished. A vital organization retains and attracts the best and brightest by fulfilling the psychological contract with the employee. The unstated "psychological contract" states that staff will receive the information needed to perform their job and will find their work to be challenging and fulfilling. A vital organization that rises to the challenge of a changing technological and economical landscape also increases the resiliency of the individuals that work in the organization. A learning organization promotes individual growth and both the individuals and the organization accept change easier.

Strategically, career development increases the value of the library to the community as needs are met and future needs are anticipated. As people are trained they marry their strengths with opportunity, as possibilities that they would have missed before are acted upon with their new knowledge. Knowledge also promotes confidence and this is the basis for leadership both within the library and in the community. Confident people speak up, become more active, and get involved with their chambers of commerce, civic clubs, charity organizations, local boards, etc. This exposes staff talents to the wider community and maximizes the political influence of the library.

What if we don't do staff training? The cost of training is high, but in an increasingly complex work environment the cost of mistakes is even higher. Sandra Smith commented in her presentation at ALA 2011, that if you're worried that you will train them and they will leave: THEN what if you don't train them and they stay? Because if you think staff training is

expensive, you should try not training them and live with human errors, stumbling in the dark, stressed out staff, etc. (Smith 2011)

As an added consequence of not training staff, once the trust is broken with the patron by giving bad service either with a lack of information, wrong information, bad customer service, or other problems, then the value of the library diminishes with that person. Unfortunately, most people are much more likely to share a bad experience than a good one. So each person that has had an unfortunate experience with an untrained staff person shares it with three more people and before long the library has lost the trust of the community and the library is now valueless.

Once we have promoted and convinced our funders of the importance of career development, now comes the ongoing process of convincing and creating the people who will be implementing and living the process of being involved in a learning organization. So, most people want to know how the training will benefit them. Higher ideals are all well and good but the individual is the backbone of the organization.

The most vital reason that can be put forth is job security. A learning organization comes up with new ways to become a fundamental part of the community. When old ways no longer work, then ideas are put forth and the library adapts to the changing tides. This also promotes teamwork as everyone feels like a contributing part of the organization and can take pride in their skills and the implementation of their ideas.

From a physical standpoint, challenges, opportunities, and the acquisition of new knowledge keeps our brains active and slows the advancement of memory loss as well as lowers the chances of developing Alzheimer's disease. Emotionally, learning and contributing engender a feeling of pride and improve the enjoyment of the job.

However, according to Dr. William J. Rothwell, author of *The Workplace Learner: How to Align Training Initiatives with Individual Learning Competencies*, a workplace learning climate is only favorable when employers take specific, carefully planned steps to ensure that their employees learn. Company leaders first have to commit sufficient financial resources and time for workplace learning, while establishing realistic goals and expectations for learning. This commitment has to be matched by middle management, and the employees themselves. At the same time, the company must inspire sufficient trust in employees that they will participate in workplace learning programs, despite the risks involved in breaking out of one's routine and comfort zone. Finally, organizations should give their employees ample incentives and rewards to encourage them to pursue workplace learning and make sure they know "what's in it for them" (Rothwell 2002).

One of the concrete steps that the organization can take in order to promote learning is as Rothwell mentioned, to develop a training plan with goals, incentives, expectations, and rewards. At First Regional Library, one of the first things we did once a training department was established was to develop a Library Assistant Plan for training and advancement. Library Assistants are our frontline circulation staff and are the main body of our employees. This plan has three levels of advancement: Library Assistant I, Library Assistant II, and Library Assistant III. Each level has required classes, a set number of service years and the need for a good staff

evaluation. A promotion to the next level comes with additional responsibilities, added respect, and a raise.

Once you have sold your "learning organization" to your funding agencies, management, and the staff themselves, your training plan becomes your guide to success and the staff become a resource and asset for new ideas and training and learning for the future.

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News Briefs: Summer 2013

"GAME OF CHANGE" RESEARCH GUIDE

The MSU Libraries is proud to announce the publication of a new online Research Guide containing information, sources, photographs, and documents related to the historic "Game of Change" in March 1963 between the Mississippi State University Men's Basketball team and the Loyola University Ramblers. The game, played on March 15, 1963 at Michigan State University, is often hailed as one of the most important games in the history of basketball in the United States.

In 1963, the SEC Champion Mississippi State team was barred from the NCAA tournament due to an "unwritten rule" that teams from Mississippi could not play against integrated teams. MSU President Dean W. Colvard and head basketball coach Babe McCarthy defied the rule and sent the basketball team to the tournament. The Bulldogs lost to the eventual champions from Loyola, but were greeted upon their return by thousands of MSU fans who approved of Colvard's decision.

This Research Guide provides the user with access to books and articles about the "Game of Change." There are links to interviews with players from both teams, photographs from the game, and links to digital materials including programs, media guides, and correspondence from the Dean W. Colvard collection.

For more information on the Research Guide, please contact Ryan Semmes at the MSU University Archives at (662) 325-9355 or at rsemmes@library.msstate.edu. To access this research guide, please visit <http://guides.library.msstate.edu/1963MSUBasketball>.

Submitted by
Angela M. Patton
Library Associate
Mississippi State University Libraries

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MSU LIBRARIES ONE OF TOP 25 SOCIAL MEDIA LIBRARIES

Mississippi State University Libraries has been ranked as number one in the SEC and number 24 across the nation in an article titled "100 Most Social Media Friendly College & University Libraries for 2013." The article, published on April 4, 2013 by Library Science List, evaluated 442 college and university libraries across the nation, based on their level of activity on various social media platforms. MSU Libraries scored 82.2 out of a possible 100 points. Platforms evaluated include Twitter, Facebook, Flickr, Pinterest, YouTube, and Google Plus.

Social Media, Extension, Ag & Life Sciences Librarian at MSU Amanda Clay Powers says that "The MSU Libraries have been a leader on campus in social media and emerging technologies since we embraced the idea in summer 2006. Starting with our first "Library 2.0" Summit in summer 2007, we began developing the in-house expertise to meet the changing needs of the University. We now have deep expertise in house for teaching, research, outreach and service in the area of social media. We have kept up as the field has grown and changed and matured over time."

Follow us on Twitter @msu_libraries or find us on Facebook at <http://facebook.com/msulibrary>. You can find all of our social media on the library's home page (mobile or web).

For more information, please visit libraryscienclist.com or follow the link to their article: <http://libraryscienclist.com/100-most-social-media-friendly-college-university-libraries/>

Submitted by
Angela M. Patton
Library Associate
Mississippi State University Libraries

*

MSU SPECIAL COLLECTIONS RECEIVES AWARD

This year's Mississippi Historical Records Advisory Board (MHRAB) Awards for Excellence were announced at the biennial meeting of the Society of Mississippi Archivists at Delta State University in Cleveland on April 18.

The Special Collections Department of the Mississippi State University Libraries in Starkville received the Mississippi Historical Records Advisory Board's Award for Excellence in Program Development for their sustained efforts in collection development and their exemplary provision of online access through digitization, digital finding aids, and databases.



Photographer: Jim Tomlinson, MSU Libraries
MSU Libraries Special Collections staff (left to right): Donisha Smiley, DeeDee Baldwin, Jana Hill, Mattie Abraham, Ryan Semmes, Gerald Chaudron, John Marszalek, Aaron Crawford, Amanda Carlock, Nekita Gandy, Meg Henderson.

Submitted by
Gerald Chaudron PhD, CA

*Assistant Professor, Manuscripts
Special Collections Department
Mississippi State University Libraries*

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CARNEGIE PUBLIC LIBRARY TO HOST DISCOVER TECH

Discover Tech: Engineers Make a World of Difference, an exciting new traveling exhibition opening at the Carnegie Public Library on July 29 shows how engineering provides solutions to better meet human needs and how engineers create new technologies to solve problems. The exhibit features hands-on, multimedia components that allow visitors to interact with the exhibit in a dynamic way, encouraging new perspectives about engineers and their vital work.

The Carnegie Public library is extremely pleased to host Discover Tech, which is visiting only nine public libraries throughout the U.S. The exhibit is part of the STAR Library Education Network (STAR_Net). This national program is led by the Space Science Institute's National Center for Interactive Learning (<http://www.nc4il.org>). Exhibit partners include the Lunar and Planetary Institute, the National Girls Collaborative Project, and the American Library Association. Discover Tech is supported through a grant from the National Science Foundation.

"We are thrilled that our library was chosen as a site for this new exhibit that brings science and technology up close to show the roles engineers play in our daily lives," said Sarah Crisler-Ruskey, Director. "The Discover Tech exhibition will help our patrons explore global issues, as well as the National Academy of Engineering's 14 Grand Challenges for Engineering, critical issues that must be addressed in the 21st century. This is a fascinating exhibit with hands-on activities for everyone, and we hope people from all of Mississippi and surrounding states will visit the exhibit, participate in the programs the library has planned, and recognize the important role of engineers everywhere. We especially hope this exhibit sparks the interest of our youth and shows them that science is all around them and that it's something they can do."

Discover Tech features a number of hands-on activities that will engage people of all ages. These include a three-person quiz game that allows participants to explore the engineering process while correcting misconceptions about what engineers really do, and a hands-on challenge in which visitors cooperate to build their own arch structure. At the Inventors Lab station, they can build a variety of electrical circuits, and at the Solar Power station they can explore how a solar panel actually works. A state-of-the-art, 42" interactive touch table includes an activity called "Game Changers" that presents critical engineering problems based on the 14 Grand Challenges for Engineering.

Exhibit visitors can view several inspirational videos showing members of Engineers Without Borders using their skills to profoundly improve the quality of life for communities in Central America, South America, Africa and Asia. They will also learn about the importance of energy in modern society. Through physical exertion activities, they will quickly understand how different types of light bulbs draw different amounts of power and how that power relates to light output.

The Carnegie Public Library of Clarksdale and Coahoma County will sponsor a number of free programs for the public in connection with the exhibit. Contact Mona Barrett at 662 624 4156 or rbarrett@cplclarksdale.lib.ms.us for more information. Discover Tech will be on display at the library July 29 through September 26, 2013.



Romona Barrett and Tim Lampkin visit one of the many areas in the Discover Tech Exhibit at the Louisville Public Library in Colorado. Louisville was the first of the nine libraries to host the exhibit.

Submitted by
Romona Barrett
Children's Librarian
Carnegie Public Library of Clarksdale & Coahoma County

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SNAPSHOT DAY AT FIRST REGIONAL LIBRARY

During National Library Week, First Regional Library conducted a "Library Snapshot Day" to capture all the activity that happens on a typical day at the library. All thirteen branches took pictures of patrons, programs and staff, as well as giving patrons a chance to record what the library means to them. Among the activities captured on camera were storytime, courier deliveries, patrons using library resources, students and tutors, community programs and much, much more.

"We will be using these photos for promotional purposes and for budget presentations," said FRL's Public Relations Specialist, David Brown. "We created a Facebook page—First Regional Library-A Day in the Life—which we will update whenever we do another Snapshot Day. Our patrons turned in lots of great quotes we can use year round to show how important the public library is to our community."

FRL has also created a video of Snapshot Day that can be found on the Facebook page or on the library's YouTube channel at www.firstregional.org.



Some of the younger FRL patrons love using the AWE computers, like these two children at the Como Public Library.



Tanner Chaney got his first library card at the Tunica Public Library on Snapshot Day.



These students at the Sardis Public Library were among the many patrons who enjoyed posing for pictures and sharing their stories on Snapshot Day.



Brenda Bostick, Library Assistant at the Horn Lake Public Library, shows that one never knows what kind of job might be needed to do on a typical work day!

Submitted by
David Brown
Public Relations Specialist and Webmaster

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COMO LIBRARY WINS AWARD

The Mississippi Department of Archives and History last month recognized the Emily J. Pointer Public Library in Como, MS, for its documenting of the community's history. First Regional Library director Catherine Nathan accepted the Award for Excellence in Documenting Mississippi's History, presented at a luncheon meeting of the Society of Mississippi Archivists at Delta State University April 18. The award was one of four bestowed by the Mississippi Historical Records Advisory Board. The award cites the efforts to identify and preserve the community's historical records and make them available to a broader public audience.

Through the Elders Remember Panola County Music: A Teen Oral History Project and the acquisition of the Alan Lomax music & photography archives and the Jessie Mae Hemphill Hill Country Blues Photography collection, the Como Library has established itself as a resource center for the area's music, particularly hill country blues music and history. "We're thrilled to be lauded for the work we do promoting and documenting our area's history and music," branch manager Alice Pierotti said. "We feel we're in the middle of the richest community in Mississippi and we work hard to pay attention to that. It means a great deal to our community that others in the state want to hear the story we have to tell."



The Emily J. Pointer Public library kicks off last year's Summer Library Program with a fife and drum parade. Fife and drum is a style of hill country music that pre-dates blues. Como was home to several famous fife and drum bands and people come from around the world to the library to learn more about the hill country music.

Submitted by

David Brown

Public Relations Specialist and Webmaster

First Regional Library

People in the News: Summer 2013

Ann Branton, Professor and Head of Cataloging (1993-2001), Head of Bibliographic Services (2001-2012) and more recently Grants Administrator for University Libraries, will retire at the end of June 2013 after 22 years of service to The University of Southern Mississippi.

Throughout her career with University Libraries and due to her leadership in library technical services, Branton made a significant impact on building and sustaining the integrity and quality of the library's online catalog. She served in lead roles on three catalog system migrations, introduced nationally recognized best practices in revisions of cataloging and acquisitions workflow and was a charter participant in the International Cataloging Online Resource Cooperative (2000). Southern Miss became the first Mississippi institution to participate in the Name Authority Cooperative Organization (NACO) due to Branton's leadership. She initiated the first NACO Mississippi Funnel Group, which included Delta State University and Mississippi Valley State University. This NACO participation led to the Civil Rights Thesaurus to standardize names of Mississippians in bibliographic records.

In recognition of her contributions to Southern Miss and the library profession, Branton received the Excellence in Librarianship Award (2005), Excellence in Professional Service Award (1995), American Library Association 3M/New Members Round Table Outstanding Achievement Award (1993), the Mississippi Library Association (MLA) Past President's Award (1994) and the MLA Peggy May Award for teaching and mentoring of new librarians (2003).

Branton served in many state leadership roles, most significantly as president of Mississippi Library Association (2009-2010) and editor of Mississippi Libraries (2000-2002). A member of Beta Phi Mu, the international library and information studies honor society, since 1990, she was active in Beta Psi, the state chapter, from 1998 to 2005 and was secretary (1998-1999) and president (2004-2005). At Southern Miss, she served as managing editor and production editor of The Southern Quarterly (2005-2013), secretary for the Council of Chairs (2009-2012), senator in Faculty Senate (2010-2013, including secretary 2012-2013). In addition, she was an adjunct faculty member for The School of Library and Information Science at Southern Miss (1995-2001), teaching and giving guest lectures on topics relevant to technical services and management. Her publications, particularly a cataloging tutorial, have an international audience and are used in the teaching of technical services.

A reception to honor Ann Branton's career and contributions to the university and librarianship was held June 21 in the Cook Library Art Gallery at The University of Southern Mississippi.



Ann Branton

Sharman Bridges Smith has announced her retirement as Executive Director of the Mississippi Library Commission, effective June 30, 2013. Her 41-year library career includes a combined 21 years as state librarian in Iowa and Mississippi.



Sharman Bridges Smith

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Joyce M. Shaw, head librarian at Gunter Library at the Gulf Coast Research Laboratory, co-authored a book with Betty Hancock-Shaw, circulation specialist at Gulf Coast Library, both of whom are affiliated with The University of Southern Mississippi Gulf Coast. *Images of America – Ocean Springs* was published in December 2012 by Arcadia Publishing. It contains nearly 200 photographs that provide a unique look at the history of Ocean Springs, Mississippi, a town that is now a lively arts community but has roots reaching back to a French settlement in 1699. Shaw is a former chair of the Special Libraries Section of Mississippi Library Association.



Joyce M. Shaw

Sitkin, Patricia. *Remembering Delphi County*. Pittsburgh: Rosedog Press, 2012. 197 pp. \$19.00 (paperback).

Patricia Sitkin's novel *Remembering Delphi County* explores the events of Freedom Summer through the eyes of aspiring British actor Rhys Ellis. Rhys joins his two Los Angeles roommates Gene and Bobby as a civil rights worker in Mississippi during the summer of 1964. There, the three young men are brutally attacked by the local police. His friends are killed, and Rhys is left for dead. The resulting injuries and emotional trauma cause total amnesia, and Rhys spends most of the book gradually regaining his memory of the incident, while his caretakers try to keep him safely out of the Ku Klux Klan's reach.

Remembering Delphi County is historically accurate in its account of Freedom Summer, capturing the tense race relations of 1960s Mississippi with startling realism. Sitkin's inspiration for the novel was a visit she had with a friend who had worked alongside the three young Neshoba County civil rights workers killed in 1964. Yet some of the novel's fictional elements, such as the over-the-top behavior of one of Rhys' attackers during his trial, seem rather far-fetched. Likewise, the story suffers from a lack of focus at times. Certain plot points, including the climax, are glossed over while peripheral characters and subplots receive unnecessary attention.

Despite its flaws, *Remembering Delphi County* is a compelling and fast-paced read. Those deeply interested in Freedom Summer and Mississippi society during the civil rights era will find it enjoyable. Due to its graphic nature – the attack on Rhys and his fellow activists is described in excruciating detail – this book is better suited to adult readers. Since it is unlikely to appeal to a general readership, only libraries with a strong interest in acquiring Mississippi history or civil rights materials should consider adding *Remembering Delphi County* to their collections.

Elena Azadbakht

Reference Librarian for Health Sciences
University of Southern Mississippi

Hamlin, Françoise N. *Crossroads at Clarksdale: The Black Freedom Struggle in the Mississippi Delta after World War II*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina, 2012. 368 pp. \$39.95 (hardcover).

The author came to Clarksdale in 1991 as a black exchange student from England and attended Coahoma County High School. He was placed with sixty-three-year-old Corine Bradley, who would pique his interest in the civil rights movement in Clarksdale with stories of her life in Mississippi, setting him on "my quest" to understand the history that defined the Delta.

The book opens with the brutal murder of Emmett Till and the leadership role of the NAACP in the attempt to bring the culprits to justice. While the author notes the galvanizing effect this event had on the civil rights movement in the South, he reports that it was the rape of two young black women in Coahoma that proved to be the rallying point in Clarksdale. Hamlin examines the civil rights struggle within Clarksdale and Coahoma County by focusing on the civil rights activities of two stalwart Clarksdale activists in particular, Aaron "Doc" Henry and Vera Pige. Hamlin skillfully weaves their personal stories and leadership activities at the national (in Henry's case) and local levels throughout the narrative as he describes and analyzes the civil rights movement in Clarksdale from the early attempts to register voters and improve school conditions through the fall of Jim Crow and the desegregation of schools. He sums up by tempering the triumph of "winning" the battle with the reality of the still desegregated schools and entrenched poverty he witnessed when first walked into the Coahoma County High School in 1991. As he notes, "Times have changed, but the story has not finished."

The book is extensively researched and includes interviews and oral histories that lend authority and poignancy to the narrative. The book is well-written, although Hamlin on a few occasions buries important information in the notes section and sometimes takes for granted that the reader is cognizant of a particular event, organization, or person. However, these are minor complaints and do not distract from this important contribution to civil rights scholarship. I highly recommend this outstanding book for both public and academic libraries.

Tamara D. Blackwell
Reference Services Librarian
Bolivar County Library System

Haynes, Elizabeth. *Crime Writers: A Research Guide*. Santa Barbra, CA: Libraries Unlimited, 2011. 204 pp. \$40.00 (paperback).

Crime Writers: A Research Guide provides a quick reference to 50 authors in the field of crime fiction. The book provides a wealth of information with each entry including a small sample of the author's work followed by a brief biography, bibliography, list of criticisms and reader guides, and finished by a resource guide and award list. Some entries include a "if you like...then you might like" section. This is especially useful for reader advisory. She also assigns subgenre categories to each author to provide further grouping. The entries are concise. A reader can learn about a particular author as well as receive recommendations of additional resources. Included in most entries are links to websites on the author.

The book's weakness is its size. While Elizabeth Haynes lays out the book's methodology, she acknowledges she is only able to cover a sampling of authors in the genre. Therefore, the reader gets only a spattering of authors in the field, so some researchers may not find their author of interest. This may be due to a lack of space. Including the "If you like... than you might like" section is inconsistent with a handful of authors having this feature. It seems that if it were important to include in some entries, then it would be necessary to incorporate for all writers. However, with a research guide of this size, it is already packed with information and the "If you like..." section becomes an added bonus to entries that include it.

Crime Writers: A Research Guide will have broad appeal to both literature scholars and collections librarians. It also holds promise as a resource for reader advisory and book clubs. Therefore, it would be a great purchase for public, school, and academic libraries. Those interested in reading mysteries may find new authors of interest based on the subgenre index and the "If you like..." section. It is a starting point for scholarly research in the genre of mystery and crime fiction and a must-have for fans of crime fiction.

Jorge Brown

Access Services Librarian

University of Southern Mississippi

Wise, Benjamin E. *William Alexander Percy: The Curious Life of a Mississippi Planter & Sexual Freethinker*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2012. 368 pp. \$35.00 (hardcover).

Benjamin Wise expertly chronicles the life of prominent Mississippian William Alexander Percy (1885-1942). William Percy was born in Greenville, Mississippi. The son of a senator, he grew up in a life of wealth and privilege. He was a white supremacist, planter, lawyer, poet, war hero, and queer sexual liberationist. He became restless in Mississippi and didn't particularly care for the law, although he worked as a lawyer most of his life. In an effort to escape the culture of the South, Percy traveled extensively, writing poetry and spending time in areas known for their queer culture. A great deal of Percy's poetry is about his feelings and life as a queer man.

Despite his frequent travels, he always returned to Greenville out of duty to his parents and admiration for his father. In 1927, the Mississippi River swelled, and the Delta drowned when the levee failed. As a result of Percy's work with the Red Cross in Belgium, he was asked to head up relief efforts. As it turned out, he was ill-equipped for this work and later resigned. Unexpectedly, in his mid-40's, Percy was thrust into fatherhood after the suicide deaths of his cousin and his cousin's wife when he became the sole guardian of their three small boys. As the years went by, his health deteriorated so Percy traveled to many places while he was still able. During this time, he worked on *Lanterns on the Levee*, which includes numerous poems that give insight into Percy's life and also serves as his autobiography.

Wise takes some liberties with regards to Percy's life and feelings; however, most of them do seem to be consistent with his research about Percy. Wise includes several photos of Percy throughout his years and gives a good overview of Southern history, as well as queer history, during the early part of the twentieth century. The book is well written and incorporates a lot of Percy's poetry, helping bring to life William Percy and opening a window into his psyche. Wise concludes with a recommendation for reading William Percy's autobiography *Lanterns on the Levee*. This book would make for a good addition to any library collecting information on Mississippi history, Southern Poetry or prominent Mississippians.

Jennifer R. Culley
Acquisitions Librarian
University of Southern Mississippi

Atkins, Ace. *The Ranger: A Quinn Colson Novel.* New York: Putnam, 2011. 352 pp. \$25.95 (hardcover).

The Ranger is the opening book of the Quinn Colson novels. Quinn, a U.S. Army Ranger and war hero, returns home to Mississippi for his uncle's funeral. His uncle, the longtime sheriff of Tibbehah County, died from a questionable suicide. It becomes apparent that Quinn needed to leave his hometown for a chance at becoming a law abiding citizen. His rambunctious nature as a teenager and dysfunctional family were not exactly seeds for success. Now Quinn is back in Jericho, Mississippi, and finds himself in the middle of corruption, violence, and deceit. His military training as a ranger proves invaluable as he fights against a gang of ruthless meth dealers in a twisted plot. With friends by his side like Lillie Virgil, a sheriff's deputy, and Boom, an old schoolmate, Quinn goes after troublemakers and seeks answers regarding his uncle's untimely demise while acting with bravery and honor.

The setting and scenery is authentic to its Mississippi roots highlighted by the burdens and challenges of living in poverty stricken rural communities. Nevertheless, Atkins captures the spirit of typical small southern towns with a cast of genuine characters and believable storylines. The pace of the story keeps readers entertained with uncovered secrets and turmoil. However, the story unfolds as expected. The hero lives to save another day, and the villains get due punishment. The gruesome details and vehemence are hard to stomach at times, but it adds depth to the story.

This novel is intended for adults and recommended for public libraries. Fans of David Baldacci's *Zero Day*, Lee Child's *The Affair* and *A Wanted Man*, Linda Castillo's *Sworn to Silence*, and Catherine Coulter's *Backfire* will enjoy this book based on the commonalities of murder, suspense, and secrets.

Joi Phillips

*Assistant Director of Library Services
Delta State University*

Scattergood, Augusta. *Glory Be*. New York: Scholastic Press, 2012. 208 pp. \$16.99 (hardcover).

What child doesn't look forward to her birthday? Gloriana June Hemphill, or "Glory," looks forward to summer *every* year because her birthday is on July 4. Since she was little, she has celebrated with friends and family, swimming in the community pool, and ending her day with the 4th of July fireworks! The summer of her 12th birthday, however, is not going the way she planned. For some reason, the city council has decided to close the pool for the summer—for "repairs." Glory soon learns there is something afoot in her hometown of Hanging Moss, Mississippi, and it has to do with "them Freedom Workers" and "outside agitators." Glory's friend, Frankie, has heard all about it from his father who serves on the town council.

Facing the hot Mississippi summer without a community pool is a disaster Glory has not counted on. Her only solace is the library, where she can keep cool and read Nancy Drew mysteries. It is there Glory meets Laura Lampert, a girl from the north whose mother is in Hanging Moss to open a Freedom Clinic. Laura wears sandals with black socks—a foreign concept to Glory, a girl who knows the unrelenting heat of a Mississippi summer. Laura drank out of the wrong water fountain even after Glory pointed to the "Colored Only" sign above it.

To add insult to injury, Glory's big sister, Jesslyn, will have nothing to do with her. All of a sudden she acts as if Glory is poisonous. Glory wishes she could turn back the clock to last summer when everything was normal. She longs for the time Jesslyn would play Junk Poker and teach her to swim the length of the pool. However, to quote Jesslyn, "Last summer was a long time ago."

Augusta Scattergood has told a compelling story about a painful time in Mississippi's history. She has created a gutsy heroine that will appeal to young readers. Most importantly, Scattergood has "nailed" the time and place. The colloquial "southernisms" are accurate, making the characters recognizable. This is a story that has been told before, but it's one that needs to be told over and over again, from as many different perspectives as possible.

Ellen Ruffin

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Wilson, Charles Reagan. *Flashes of a Southern Spirit: Meanings of the Spirit in the U. S. South*. Athens: University of Georgia Press, 2011. 288 pp. \$24.95 (hardcover).

In *Flashes of a Southern Spirit: Meanings of the Spirit in the U. S. South*, author Charles Reagan Wilson unifies writings relating to southern religion that were published over a 10-year period in hard-to-find journals and conference proceedings. This compilation makes them available to a wider audience. Wilson said he "decided to bring them together and revise what I had already written in terms of this theme of the importance of the spirit in the South to the Southern identity."

The heart of the work centers on three sections "Tradition," "Creativity," and "Spirituality." In "Tradition," Wilson looks at the invention and ritualization of southern history. He explores the myth of a biracial south during the 1930s when there were more similarities than differences between town and country folk. He uses works by William Faulkner, James Agee, and Charles L. Black to explain times, places, and experiences. "Creativity" illustrates Wilson's thoughts about Eudora Welty and how her creativity was nurtured by family and community, and Roman Catholic Flannery O'Connor who saw her south through a lens of faith. The section entitled "Spirituality" brings together evangelism, Elvis Presley, Richard Wright, and Wilson's personal journey with the study of southern religion which began as a child in Nashville, Tennessee, and continues in Mississippi. It is this personal exploration in which Wilson's reflection as a participant-observer reveals that "combining personal and societal spirituality" is a foundation to his work. By revealing his personal story, Wilson provides a rare glimpse into his own life and how his experiences are part of his scholarship in the study of southern culture and religion.

Wilson explores how southerners express their spirituality through literature, art, music, and more. Covering a broad variety of topics, the essays illustrate how religion goes beyond conventional definitions found in religious history. It can also be found in music, art, fiction, photography, beauty pageants, social relations, and the pulpit. He brings to light how the complicated nature of southern spirituality can defy a strict theological definition. Wilson asks his readers to look at the common themes and to question what the themes reveal about creativity in a part of the country viewed through a prism of conflicts, disparities, and social problems.

Charles Reagan Wilson is the Kelly Gene Cook Chair in history and professor of southern studies at the University of Mississippi. He is considered one of the most important historians of religion in the American South. His other works include *Judgment and Grace in Dixie: Southern Faiths from Faulkner to Elvis* and *Baptized in Blood: The Religion of the Lost Cause, 1865-1920*. Wilson is also the general editor of *The New Encyclopedia of Southern Culture*.

This book is recommended for large public libraries and academic libraries with collections in southern history or religion.

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