



# MISSISSIPPI LIBRARIES

## Contents

President's Page (2)

*Amanda Clay Powers*

Aprons in April: Aprons, Cookbooks, and Public Outreach at Hernando Public Library (3)

*Heather Lawson*

Aesop through the Ages: An Examination of Aesop's Fables in the de Grummond Children's Literature Collection (5)

*Teresa S. Welsh*

Wham! Pow!: Discussion of a Graphic Novel and Comic Book Core Collection in an Academic Library (9)

*Brian Young*

News Briefs (12)

People in the News (16)

Book Reviews: (18)

*Mississippi Praying: Southern White Evangelicals and the Civil Rights Movement, 1945-1975*

*Delta Fragments: The Recollections of a Sharecropper's Son*

*Railroads of Meridian*

*Long Division*

*Being Dead is No Excuse: The Official Southern Ladies Guide to Hosting the Perfect Funeral*

Cover image: Winners of the 2013 Aprons in April program at Hernando Public Library, part of the Frist Regional Library system. Left to right: Maisey Price, Bettye Huckaby, Barbara Latham, Robin Warren-Busigo. Photo by Heather Lawson.

# President's Page

In the last several months we've seen challenges to our roles as librarians. The Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) introduced revisions to the MS Public Schools Accountability Standards 2012 that would eliminate language related to public school library funding. Their proposed language changing "required" school librarians to "recommended" luckily died with the bill in the legislature meant to authorize the change.

Furthermore, Representative Paul Ryan (R-WI), the House Budget Committee Chairman, introduced a budget that has now been passed by the United States Congress defunding the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and recommending the federal government have no role in libraries. You and I know that libraries depend on this funding, and we can all imagine what would happen to it if its role moved, as recommended, to the "private sector." For Fiscal Years 2010 – 2014, Mississippi alone has received \$9.2 million dollars from the IMLS and in the same period they have disbursed more than \$154 billion dollars to libraries across the country.

What does this mean for us? It's easy to feel helpless in the face of so many threats to our financial livelihood, and not only that, but the fact that important people seem to not value libraries. First and foremost, we must take action. We know how important libraries are, and we can't afford to sit and be idle. You would have been proud to see all the librarians speaking on

behalf of public libraries at the April 1<sup>st</sup> MDE hearing. We corrected their misapprehension that "most libraries are going far above the minimum of \$20 per student required to fund libraries." They now know that some of us get only a small portion of that money.

We need to make our voices heard at the national level as well, by becoming more involved with our counterparts in the American



**Amanda Clay Powers**  
*2014 MLA President*

Libraries Association. We have begun reconnecting with other State Chapters at ALA MidWinter 2014 and will be participating in Chapter training at ALA Annual 2014 to make our local concerns heard at the national level, and we will be bringing more opportunities to Mississippi to participate in national initiatives and targeted advocacy. We want Mississippi libraries' voices to be heard in the national conversation about the value and support of libraries.

There are so many things to be heartened by, however. Research is coming out that demonstrates that the American public values their libraries and that the use of libraries is on the rise. Independent research from Pew Internet and American Life ([libraries.pewinternet.org](http://libraries.pewinternet.org)) indicates that roughly 90% of Americans said that "the closing of their local public library would have an impact on their community," 94% say it improves the quality of life in a community, and 63% reported that losing their public library would have a "major" impact. Even the popular press has jumped on the bandwagon with stories like "Libraries are dying? Think again" from CNN this week.

The politicians are wrong. It is up to us to engage in these conversations to correct misapprehensions and represent our patrons' needs. We can do it. In fact, we just did it.

Find out about more that the Mississippi Library Association is doing by following us on social media. We are now on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and soon on Pinterest! Find all our accounts at [misslib.org](http://misslib.org), and while you are there go ahead and rejoin MLA. It is time, and we have got a lot to do!

# Aprons in April

## Aprons, Cookbooks, and Public Outreach at Hernando Public Library

**Heather Lawson**

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*Hernando Public Library Branch  
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### INTRODUCTION

It is not surprising that creating a series of programs and displays around the topic of aprons can have universal appeal. The best ideas are stolen ideas. This stolen idea from Pamela Pridgen, an outstanding Mississippi library programmer, was a perfect fit for Hernando Public Library, a branch of First Regional Library.

Starting with Ms. Pridgen's basic premise of displaying favorite aprons with a recipe, we got started by picking a month and title for a series of programs and the displays. For us nothing worked better than 'Aprons In April.' Besides the fun alliteration, April has proved to be a good month for adult programs here in Hernando, as it avoids the summer and winter holidays.



### PREPARATIONS

The timeline had to revolve around the kickoff event, since we wanted to invite a significant person in the food world. Because she had been featured on the Today Show, and in dozens of national publications, *Southern Living*, *O Magazine*, *Cooking Light*, *Country Living*, *Better Homes and Gardens*, to name just a few, we chose Tasia Malakahsa. Most importantly, her book, *Tasia's Kitchen*, had just been published, and we felt it was more likely she would accept our invitation to help publicize her book. She was able to come March 21, which allowed us to start publicizing the event early since we



planned to officially start accepting aprons April 1.

Naturally, we made a list of all of the segments of the community we wanted to reach. Besides our usual patrons and government officials, we decided to approach local caterers, restaurant chefs, and churches and local organizations which had published cookbooks. We also went for star power by requesting an apron and recipe from Mississippi born Whitney Miller, the first winner of Fox's 'MasterChef' reality television show. Her leopard print apron with 'Pastry Princess' and her Sweet Potato Peanut Butter Blondies recipe were a success.

To help support the local churches and organizations, we created display space for their cookbooks and the information on who to contact to purchase them. One particularly supportive group was the Hernando Civic Garden Club, which asked members to display a favorite apron with one of the recipes from their cookbook. This was an excellent marketing idea for them, and helped create interest in their cookbook.

### LIBRARY PROGRAMMING

All patrons were encouraged to vote for their favorite apron on display. To serve as the ballot box one staff member decorated an old fashioned jar with aprons hung from a clothesline with tiny clothes pins. The 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and honorable mention prize winners received a choice of a signed copy of *Tasia's Kitchen*, one of Tasia's cheese making packages, or a Hern-

nando Civic Garden Cookbook. To connect with a local business one of the local hair salons donated a cut and style, for anyone needing something special after a day of cooking.

The staff and patrons looked forward to seeing the aprons that appeared during the first week of April, when aprons were accepted for display. Patrons brought in not only their favorite apron, but their mother's and grandmother's

apron. Some of the pairings of apron and recipe were fun, like the 'I'm Not Aging, I'm Marinating' with a Spicy Crab Cake recipe. Contributors were not limited to the female chefs; we received a camouflage style apron and a 'Kiss the Cook' apron featuring Gene Simmons' painted face from male contributors. Wonderful personal and humorous stories were shared at one event, but also impromptu in the Library, with staff and other patrons.

Not forgetting that we are a library, displays were created which included a very broad range of topics, fiction and nonfiction, in every format and age level. The gamut ran from the obvious to the not so obvious: cooking, sewing, household cleaning, mysteries with recipes, travel books to wine countries, even books on butchering. As part of the displays, we included fun information from various sources regarding aprons, their history and their significance in our lives. At the end of April, participants were given a handout containing a collection of all of the submitted recipes.

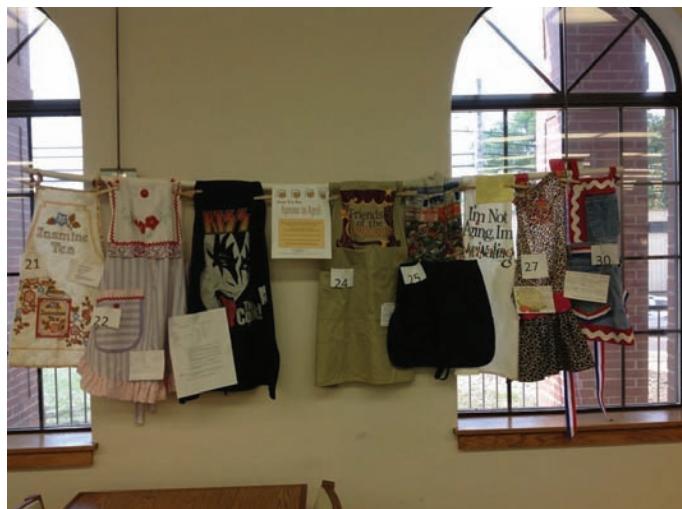
### PROMOTION AND CONCLUSION

A clever idea is often picked up by the media, and this was no exception. The Desoto/Memphis Commercial Appeal featured it with a photograph of patrons examining aprons on the front page as a tease and highlight for the 'local' feature section. The food reviewer wrote a lengthy article highlighting various aprons, featured three of the recipes, and included an interview with one of the contributors.

Other ideas we did not do, but in

retrospect would have been perfect: a tasting of some of the recipes would make a great final event; guest speaker from the Apron Museum, in Iuka. As you too can find out, one of the best aspects of this particular idea is that it can easily be tweaked for any size library or community. After all, libraries can be like aprons, functional and decorative.

After this success, the Hernando Public Library is already preparing our next venture, a program called "Wedding Moments: Remembering and Sharing." We hope to see you there!



# Aesop through the Ages

## An Examination of Aesop's Fables in the de Grummond Children's Literature Collection

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### INTRODUCTION

Many libraries contain hidden treasures, particularly academic libraries, which collect and archive historic materials for scholarly research. This paper focuses on one of the richest collections at The University of Southern Mississippi, the de Grummond Collection, examines the background and historical context of the oldest items in the collection, *Aesop's Fables*, and notes strategies that address visibility and accessibility of rare items.

### DE GRUMMOND CHILDREN'S LITERATURE COLLECTION

The de Grummond Children's Literature Collection, founded in 1966 by Dr. Lena Y. de Grummond, is one of North America's leading collections of children's books and primary-source materials related to children's literature. The collection includes original manuscripts and illustrations of more than 1300 authors and illustrators as well as more than 160,000 books dating from 1530 to the present. The collection is a rich repository of research materials for scholars interested in children's literature, history of the book, history of art and illustration, or history of education. Additional information is available online: <http://www.lib.usm.edu/legacy/degrum/>.

### BACKGROUND: WHO WAS AESOP?

The fables of Aesop, thought to be a Greek slave who lived in Greece about 600 BC, have had an enduring influence on children's literature. More than 600 animal fables have been attributed to Aesop and many versions have been published as faithful retellings of the ancient morality tales or as more modern adaptations.

More than 600 animal fables have been attributed to Aesop and many versions have been published as faithful retellings of the ancient morality tales or as more modern adaptations.

Greek historian Herodotus claimed that Aesop (c. 620-560 BC) was a slave first owned by Xanthus on Isle of Samos and later by Iadmon who gave him freedom because he was such a skilled storyteller (Herodotus, Waterfield & Dewald, 1998).

Aesop reportedly traveled to Asia Minor and, through his wit and intelligence, became an advisor to King Croesus who sent him on a diplomatic tour of the Greece. At Corinth, it was reported that he recited "The Frogs Who Desired a King" with the moral, "Better no rule than cruel rule" (<http://www.vam.ac.uk/content/articles/a/aesops-fables-the-frogs-desiring-a-king/>). Herodotus reported that the people of Delphi took offense with his fables and threw Aesop from a cliff (Herodotus, Waterfield & Dewald, 1998).

### Evidence of African Origin

There is some evidence that Aesop was of African origin. His Greek name *Aisopos* is a version of *Aethiop* or Ethiopian, which means "burnt-faced people" and many of the animals in fables attributed to Aesop were not Greek but African: apes, lions, elephants, crocodiles, jackals, monkeys, asps, scorpions (Lobban, 2002).

Lobban (2002) cites a consistency of animal characters and names between Nubian and Aesopian moral fables, indicating a common origin and Ethiopian/Nubian ancestry. The tradition of anthropomorphism (stories of animals with human characteristics) is an ancient one that

dates back to the beginnings of civilization.

### HISTORICAL CONTEXT: ANIMAL FABLES IN THE ANCIENT WORLD

The word "fable" comes from Latin *fabula* meaning story or tale, usually, a short tale that teaches a moral lesson, often using animals (dictionary.com). The representation of animals with human characteristics and speech dates back to ancient Sumer and Egypt, and some scholars have found similarities from this tradition to later fables attributed to Aesop.

#### Sumerian

Scholars have been able to trace two of Aesop's fables back to a much older collection of Sumerian proverbs dating to before the 7<sup>th</sup> century BC (Dalley, 1991). The Aesopian fable "The Gnat and the Bull" (<http://read.gov/aesop/008.html>) is similar to the older Sumerian proverb "The Gnat and the Elephant" and "The Eagle and the Fox" is similar to the older Sumerian "The Eagle and the Serpent" (Gordon, 1958).

#### Egyptian

Ancient Egyptians seemed to take delight in portraying animals in a reversal of the natural order or *maat*, such as cats serving/pampering a mouse (Wilson, 2007, <http://www.ancientegyptmagazine.co.uk/permesut44.htm>).

An Egyptian papyrus dated to the Late New Kingdom (Figure 1) illustrates this theme and depicts a lion playing a game with an antelope, fox herding deer, and cats herding geese (British Museum, 2014).

This theme is echoed in many of Aesop's tales that focus on the weak overcoming or rescuing the strong such as "The



Figure 1: Painted Egyptian papyrus (c. 1100 BC). © British Museum, London (used with permission).

"Lion and the Mouse" in which a Lion spares the life of a Mouse who later repays the kindness by chewing through a net in which the Lion was caught (<http://read.gov/aesop/007.html>).

#### *Animal Stereotypes*

According to Flavius Philostratus (c. 200 AD), the philosopher Apollonius said of Aesop: "He puts animals in a pleasing light and makes them interesting to mankind. For after being brought up from childhood with these stories ... we acquire certain opinions of the several animals and think of some of them as royal animals, of others as silly, of others as witty, and others as innocent" (Philostratus & Conybeare, 1989).

Some common animal stereotypes in Aesop's Fables are reflected as well in other traditional literatures, such as Biblical literature:

- Cruel, ravenous wolf; "a wolf from the desert will ravage them" (Jeremiah 5:6).
- Evil snake: "Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field" (Geneses 3:1).
- Ferocious, proud lion; "a lion, mighty among beasts, who retreats before nothing" (Proverbs 30:30).
- Meek lamb; "he was led like a lamb to the slaughter" (Isaiah 53:7).
- Soaring eagle; "An eagle will soar and swoop down" (Jeremiah 49:22).
- Sly fox; "the little foxes, that spoil the vines" (Song of Solomon 2:15).
- Lazy grasshopper; "the grasshopper drags himself along and desire no longer is stirred" (Ecclesiastes 12:5).
- Industrious ant; "Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise" (Proverbs 6: 6-8).

#### **USE OF FABLES FOR INSTRUCTION**

"Ask the animals and they will teach you" (Job 12:7). The philosopher Apollonius said of Aesop "like those who dine well off the plainest dishes, he made use of humble incidents to teach great truths" (Philostratus & Conybeare, 1989).

In the preface to his 1658 collection of classical fables entitled *The Wisdome of the Ancients*, Francis Bacon argued that "beneath no small number of the fables of the ancient poets there lay from the very beginning a mystery and an allegory." Through such fables, hidden meanings can be exposed and made understood

to unskilled ears and eyes and "the fable serves as a very appropriate expedient for instruction and persuasion, the higher goals of rhetoric beyond simple entertainment and delight" (pp. 695-699).

Aesop was taught in schools in classical Greece and was considered to be basic knowledge as referenced by characters in two comedies by Aristophanes:

"You are not educated. You never inquire. Of your Aesop you don't know a word" (*The Birds* by Aristophanes, 414 BC).

"Others tell us anecdotes or some comic story from Aesop" (*The Wasps* by Aristophanes, 422 BC).

Plato (360 BC) wrote that Socrates, while in jail at the end of his life, spent his time turning Aesop's fables "which he knew" into verses (Plato & Gallop, 1975).

#### **AESOP IN THE DE GRUMMOND CHILDREN'S LITERATURE COLLECTION**

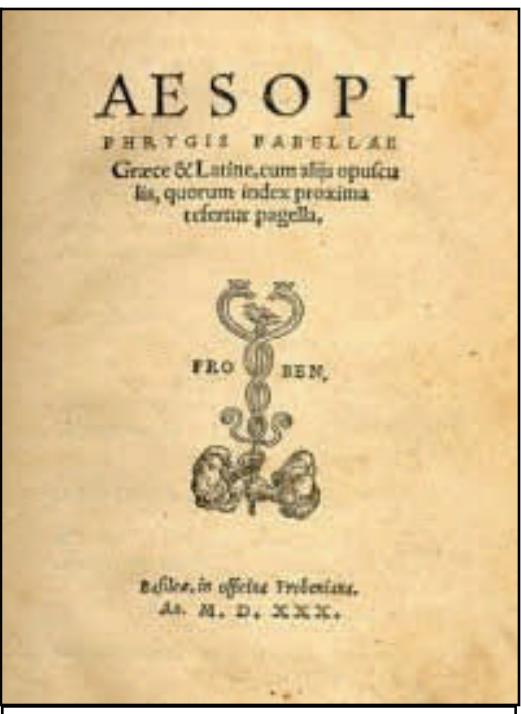
The large number and variety of Aesop's Fables in the de Grummond collection is an indication of their usefulness for moral instruction as well as entertainment since ancient times. The dates of the more than 200 Aesop's Fables in de Grummond range from the 16th to the 21st centuries. The oldest and rarest item in the collection is dated 1530 (Figure 2), *Aesopi Phrygias Fabellae Graece & Latine* (*Aesop's Fables in Greek and Latin*).

The de Grummond collection contains another rare edition from 1698, *Fabularum Aesopicarum Delectus* (*Selected Fables of Aesop*) in Greek and Latin with additional fables in Hebrew/Latin and Arabic/Latin.

Editions from the 1700's include the first English version, *Fables of Aesop* by Roger L'Estrange (1708); *The Eagle and the Robin: An Apologue* by H.G.L. Mag (1709); *Aesop's Fables in English and Latin* by John Locke (1723); *Aesop Unveiled or The Beauties of Deformity*, printed and sold by J. Clarke, London (1731); *Fables Translated from Aesop and Other Authors* by Charles Draper (1774); *Fables of Aesop and Others* by Samuel Croxall (1782); and *A History of the Life of Aesop* by Roger L'Estrange (1798).

#### **DE GRUMMOND COLLECTION: VISIBILITY AND ACCESSIBILITY**

While serious scholars of children's literature, nationally and internation-



**Figure 2: Aesop's Fables in Greek and Latin (1530).** Title page courtesy of the de Grummond Collection Curator Ellen Ruffin ([http://www.lib.usm.edu/legacy/degrum/public\\_html/images/aesop1.jpg](http://www.lib.usm.edu/legacy/degrum/public_html/images/aesop1.jpg))

ally are aware of this collection (it is listed by the British Library at <http://www.bl.uk/reshelp/findhelpsubject/literature/chillit/childlinks/childlinks.html>), many local scholars, librarians, and teachers are unfamiliar with the collection and its available resources. To promote the collection, de Grummond engages in several community outreach strategies to increase the collection's visibility and accessibility.

#### *Digitization*

To increase accessibility, de Grummond has digitized some of their rarest and most valuable books, including three historic versions of *Aesop's Fables*. These may be viewed full-text online in University of Southern Mississippi Libraries Digital Collections:

*Aesop Unveiled or The Beauties of Deformity* (1731):

<http://digilib.usm.edu/cdm/compoundobject/collection/dgbooks/id/2201/rec/1>

*Aesop's Fables* (c. 1880):

<http://digilib.usm.edu/cdm/compoundobject/collection/dgbooks/id/637/rec/2>

*Baby's Own Aesop: The Fables Condensed in Rhyme* by Walter Crane (1887):  
<http://digilib.usm.edu/cdm/compoundobject/collection/dgbooks/id/3399/rec/3>

#### Exhibit Room

The de Grummond Children's Literature Collection Exhibit Room, located on the second floor of Southern Miss Cook Library in Hattiesburg, displays selected materials from the collection including artwork and early children's books (Figure 3). The exhibit is open to the public.

#### Children's Book Festival

Each April, the de Grummond Collection is a co-sponsor, with the Southern Miss School of Library and Information Science, of the Fay B. Kaigler Children's Book Festival. This year, the festival will be held April 9-11 at the USM Thad Cochran Center in Hattiesburg (<https://www.usm.edu/childrens-book-festival>). During the festival, the de Grummond Collection partners with the Ezra Jack Keats Foundation to present the Ezra Jack Keats New Author and New Illustrator Book Awards (<http://www.ezra-jack-keats.org/2014-book-award-press/>).

#### Social Media: YouTube

Southern Miss MLIS student Cole Smith coordinated the production of a series of short videos by the USM Learning Enhancement Center (LEC) featuring de Grummond Curator Ellen Ruffin talking about selected items from the collection. These videos were created for online courses related to archives and the history of children's literature but are available for anyone to use:

*de Grummond Children's Literature Collection* ([youtube.com/watch?v=CKuqEEJ6dgk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CKuqEEJ6dgk))

An overview of how the de Grummond collection was started and some of their prized holdings.

*H.A. & Margaret Rey* ([youtube.com/watch?v=etVEiuxKOCM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=etVEiuxKOCM))

An overview of the life and works of H.A. & Margaret Rey, the creators of the stories of Curious George. The materials discussed are on display at the de Grummond exhibit room at USM Cook Library.



Figure 3: de Grummond Exhibit Room (photo by T.S. Welsh, 2013).

*Kate Greenaway* ([youtube.com/watch?v=gZNS18egVko](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gZNS18egVko))

A video about one of the first famous children's literature authors, Kate Greenaway. The video reveals how colored children's books were made using wood blocks that had the pictures and text etched out in them.

*Ezra Jack Keats* ([youtube.com/watch?v=KoFjWwyQd0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KoFjWwyQd0))

An overview of the life of famed children's novelist Ezra Jack Keats and a look at the process of how some of his art was made. The material discussed is displayed at the de Grummond exhibit room in USM Cook Library.

#### Social Media: Facebook

The de Grummond Collection maintains a Facebook page where they post images and updates about the collection: [facebook.com/pages/de-Grummond-Childrens-Literature-Collection/103104874119](https://facebook.com/pages/de-Grummond-Childrens-Literature-Collection/103104874119).

#### CONCLUSION

For specific questions about Aesop's Fables or any other item in the collection, complete the reference form at: [lib.usm.edu/legacy/degrum/public\\_html/html/research/ref.shtml](http://lib.usm.edu/legacy/degrum/public_html/html/research/ref.shtml).

To schedule an appointment to view items from the de Grummond Collection contact Curator Ellen Ruffin, Assistant Curator Danielle Bishop, or Collection

Specialist Amanda Myers at (601) 266-4349.

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- ADDITIONAL RESOURCES RELATED TO AESOP'S FABLES**
- The Aesop for Children*  
<http://read.gov/aesop/001.html>
- Aesopica: Aesop's Fables in English, Latin, & Greek*  
<http://mythfolklore.net/aesopica/>
- Best-Loved Aesop Fables*  
<http://mmdelrosario.hubpages.com/hub/Best-Loved-Aesop-Fables>
- The Evolution of Aesop's Fables*  
<http://ryerson.ca/childrenslit/group40.html>
- The Fables of Aesop as First Printed by William Caxton in 1484*  
<http://archive.org/stream/fablesofaesopasf02aesouoft#page/n11/mode/2up>
- Aesop's Fables Interactive Book*, app for smart phone or tablet  
<http://read.gov/aesop/index.htm>
- Free Audio of Aesop's Fables  
<http://storynory.com/category/aesop>
- Online Collection of Aesop's Fables with Moral of the Story <http://www.aesopables.com/aesopsel.html>
- Wise Animals: Aesop and His Followers  
<http://www.library.illinois.edu/rbx/exhibitions/Aesop/aesopica.html>

**AUTHOR'S NOTE**

This paper is based in part on a presentation at the 2013 Fay B. Kaigler Children's Book Festival.

# Wham! Pow!

## Discussion of a Graphic Novel and Comic Book Core Collection in an Academic Library

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Reference Librarian  
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### INTRODUCTION

Discussions on what should (e.g., creation of core lists) or should not (e.g., popular reading) be in an academic library's collection can be found throughout the library science literature. In regards to popular reading, some studies advocate for the addition of popular materials to the library collection. Detractors, though, offer many reasons (e.g., space required; not part of the mission) why they should be omitted. While a brief review is included to contextualize this article, it will not seek to directly advocate collecting or not collecting popular materials. Instead, it will present briefly the circumstances by which the University of Mississippi created a small graphic novel and comic book collection and, then, present two small data sets that suggest the popularity of the materials. From this, I hope other libraries, academic or otherwise, can use the information when deciding if or what graphic novel or comic book related material to purchase.

### BRIEF REVIEW

Many academic libraries own popular reading materials (e.g., fiction), acquired either purposefully to build a popular reading collection or in support of academic programs, classes, or faculty research. Spatial or financial constraints, (Gilbert and Fister, 2011; Elliot, 2009; Alsop, 2007), mission statement / collection development policy (Gilbert and Fister, 2011), and user interest (Gilbert and Fister, 2011) are all valid reasons that have been offered for why academic librarians do not actively purchase popular materials. In some cases, these may be more indicative of local organizational culture/focus or user behavior and not necessarily applicable to all libraries.

Much of the research in support of building popular reading materials collections may also be viewed as applicable to a specific library and not generalizable. Librarians have shown that popular materi-

als have strong circulation rates (Odess-Harnish, 2002; Hallyburton, Buchanan, and Carstens, 2011) and their users request or appreciate access (Rathe and Blankenship, 2006; Gilbert and Fister, 2011). Other research offers a much broader perspective regarding the benefits of college students having easy access to popular materials. In their discussion of the National Endowment for the Arts' report "To Read or Not to Read," Smith and Young (2008) highlight findings that ludic reading has a strong correlation with academic achievement; while also correlating with civic-mindedness (e.g., voting and volunteering). Other benefits include increased creativity (Kelly and Kneipp 2009) and encouraging students to develop deep-reading skills, a potentially deteriorating skill due to our access to hyperlinked information on the web (e.g., Wikipedia).

Graphic novels and comic books are two examples of popular reading materials in some libraries that have been increasing in mainstream popularity. The distinction between the two generally relates to length and completeness (i.e., comic books are serialized and one issue usually lacks one or more parts of the story). For academic libraries, though, the distinction is trivial since libraries generally purchase collected editions of comics, which resemble graphic novels. In contrast to more traditional texts, they add a visual element to the story that can impact how the reader perceives the narrative. Neil Gaiman's *Sandman* provides an example of this as each volume has a unique "feel" based on the artists (illustrator, penciler, etc.) associated with the volume.

### LOCAL COLLECTION BACKGROUND

Starting in 2011, the J.D. Williams library provided space for comic book and graphic novel enthusiasts to meet monthly to discuss a book from those formats. Groups members included university faculty or staff, including librarians, and local community members. The meeting provided a forum for both researchers and leisurely readers to discuss a mutually appreciated reading format. University of

Mississippi Libraries, however, did not actively purchase either comic books or graphic novels for the collection. Items in the collection consisted largely of materials donated by the university community.

In 2012, the library dean offered internal \$1,000 grants to librarians for the development of niche collections not previously supported by the J.D. Williams Library. Alex Watson, the English librarian, was awarded one of these grants to develop a graphic novel / comic book core collection that would represent a cross-section of both formats. The reasons for building this collection were twofold: support research conducted by a small number of university faculty and acquire books with high circulation potential. He developed the initial list using suggestions from the aforementioned group, library literature, reading lists, and subject guides. Intended to represent a cross-section of both formats and genres, a wide array of books were selected, such as Japanese *manga*, Korean *manhwa*, and French *bande dessinées* (see Table 1 for full list).

### CIRCULATION DATA

In an informal survey, some of our students expressed interest in popular reading material (i.e., "real books" according to some). I wanted to look for evidential data that could possibly support the inclusion of more popular reading materials in our collection. Since the comic book / graphic novel grant had never been assessed and the formats have experienced increased public appeal (e.g., Hollywood movie productions of *V for Vendetta*, *Watchmen*, and various Marvel and DC adaptions—*Batman*, *Spiderman*, *Iron Man*, *Thor*, *Avengers*, etc.), the core collection seemed an ideal place to begin investigating the popularity of non-purely academic titles.

The circulation data for the core collection supports findings from other institutions that popular reading materials generally have much higher circulation rates than academic books. The general library science literature laments how large percentages of the collection are rarely used (either no circulations or small num-

<i>9/11 Report: A Graphic Adaptation</i>	<i>Drifting Life</i>
<i>American Born Chinese</i>	<i>Essential Spiderman: Volume 1 **</i>
<i>Animal Man: Volume 1 **</i>	<i>The Frank Book</i>
<i>Animal Man: Volume 2 **</i>	<i>From Hell *</i>
<i>Animal Man: Volume 3 **</i>	<i>Ghost World *</i>
<i>Batman: The Dark Knight Returns **</i>	<i>Greatest of Marly's</i>
<i>Batman: The Killing Joke **</i>	<i>Heartbreak Soup</i>
<i>Batman: The Long Halloween **</i>	<i>Jar of Fools: A Picture Story</i>
<i>Batman: Year One **</i>	<i>Jimmy Corrigan: The Smartest Kid on Earth *</i>
<i>Berlin: City of Smoke</i>	<i>Krazy Kat: The Comic Art of George Herriman</i>
<i>Berlin: City of Stones</i>	<i>Life's a Bitch</i>
<i>Binky Brown Meets the Holy Virgin Mary</i>	<i>Locas: The Maggie and Hopey Stories (not acquired)</i>
<i>Black Hole *</i>	<i>Moto Hagio's a Drunken Dream and Other Stories</i>
<i>Bone **</i>	<i>Nausicaa of the Valley of the Wind: Volume 1</i>
<i>Books of Magic *</i>	<i>Nausicaa of the Valley of the Wind: Volume 2</i>
<i>Buddha 1: Kapilavastu **</i>	<i>Nausicaa of the Valley of the Wind: Volume 3</i>
<i>Buddha 2: The Four Encounters *</i>	<i>Nausicaa of the Valley of the Wind: Volume 4</i>
<i>Buddha 3: Devadatta</i>	<i>Nausicaa of the Valley of the Wind: Volume 5</i>
<i>Buddha 4: The Forest of Uruvela</i>	<i>Nausicaa of the Valley of the Wind: Volume 6</i>
<i>Buddha 5: Ananda</i>	<i>Nausicaa of the Valley of the Wind: Volume 7</i>
<i>Buddha 6: Deer Park</i>	<i>Persepolis 2: The Story of a Return</i>
<i>Buddha 7: Prince Ajatasattu</i>	<i>Pogo: Through the Wild Blue Wonder</i>
<i>Buddha 8: Jetavana</i>	<i>Powers: Volume 1 **</i>
<i>Castle Waiting</i>	<i>Stitches: A Memoir</i>
<i>City of Glass *</i>	<i>V for Vendetta **</i>
<i>Complete Calvin and Hobbes</i>	<i>Watchmen**</i>
<i>Contract with God Trilogy: Life on Dropsie Avenue *</i>	<i>X-Men: The Dark Phoenix Saga**</i>

**Table 1:** Comic Book Core Collection – \*\* Indicates books Circulated More than Twice; \* More than Once

ber) during their shelf life. The core collection did not have this problem. Users have borrowed 41 of the 53 books (77%) at least once in the 22 months since books were placed on the shelves. Moreover, users have borrowed 27 (51%) books from the core collection more than once and 14 (26%) books more than twice (denoted in Table 1). Small sample size notwithstanding, this implies that an expanded popular collection, particularly comic book and graphic novels, would be welcomed, as measured by circulation statistics. In addition, textual non-fiction books related to graphic novels and comic books have strong circulation rates as well (see Table 2 for suggested titles based on circulation), which implies that interest in the format extends beyond the “pretty pictures”.

If we measure success based on circulation statistics, then narrative fiction,

especially superhero comics, are by far the genre that should be collected. Looking further, users checked out graphic novels and comic books in our core collection which have been adapted into Hollywood movies an average of 6 times. For example, users borrowed the four Batman titles 36 times over 22 months—more than once per month, not even including 12 renewals. Although not necessarily because of their Hollywood movie status, it seems safe to assume that production companies consider certain graphic novels to have wide public appeal and, therefore, it should be expected that they may be more popular than other graphic novels.

#### BOOK DISPLAY

Bibliographers at J.D. Williams Library have participated in creating weekly book displays (with 9-11 books

displayed at any one time), similar to the displays at Stanford Library, that focus on a particular topic each week. As a way to provide some recreation during an otherwise stressful period, I elected to display comics and graphic novels during the Fall 2013 finals week, hoping students would either borrow books as a respite to studying for finals or as entertainment over winter break. Due to expected low foot traffic in the display area during winter break, the display was extended past its normal week and remained until the first week of spring classes—a total of four weeks while the library was open.

Over the course of the four weeks, I replaced books as they were checked out, resulting in 26 unique titles being displayed and 15 of those titles being borrowed. In addition, two additional titles (volumes 2 and 3) were checked out directly because of the display. Of the 13 displays prior to this display, 9 had either 0 or 1 books borrowed, with only one having as many as 4 books taken. The graphic novel/comic book display, with an average of 3.75 books checked out per week during the four-week time period, was clearly one of the more popular displays. While not scientific, the implication is that graphic novels and comic books have high “curb appeal” and/or are desired by our user population.

#### CONCLUSION

Data from circulation statistics and the book display suggest that our users appreciate having access to popular reading materials, specifically comic books and graphic novels. In our collection, we have books from a wide range of genres acquired through targeted purchase (e.g., juvenile and young adult collection in support of the Education department) and faculty donations. Based on the implications and available materials, our library could consider marketing these materials more directly to our users and, based on their reaction, have an evidence-based discussion on expanding our collection development policies to include more popular materials.

The core collection presented in this article provides an excellent starting point for any library seeking to introduce comic books and graphic novels to their collection. The list, as a whole, provides a cross-section of many genres and cultures. However, if librarians’ goal for implement-

ing the collection is constant circulation, then a focus on narrative fiction, especially superheroes and/or books that have been adapted (directly or loosely), may be warranted.

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<i>Adult Comics: An Introduction</i>
<i>Comic Book Nation: The Transformation of Youth Culture in America</i>
<i>Comics, Comix, and Graphic Novels</i>
<i>Dreamland Japan: Writings on Modern Manga</i>
<i>Faster than a Speeding Bullet: The Rise of the Graphic Novel</i>
<i>How to Read Superhero Comics and Why</i>
<i>Manga! Manga!: The World of Japanese Comics</i>
<i>Reading Comics: Language, Culture, and the Concept of the Superhero in Comic Books</i>
<i>Super Heroes: A Modern Mythology</i>
<i>Superhero Comics of the Golden Age: The Illustrated History</i>
<i>Superman on the Couch: What Superheroes Really Tell Us about Ourselves and Our Society</i>
<i>The Comic Book Heroes</i>
<i>The Ten-Cent Plague: The Great Comic Book Scare and How it Changed America</i>
<i>Wonder Women: Feminisms and Superheroes</i>
<b>Table 2:</b> Textual Non-Fiction Related to Graphic Novels and Comic Books with 8 or More Circulations

# News Briefs

**Tina Harry**

Catalog & Assistant Automation  
Librarian and Associate Professor  
University of Mississippi

## CALL FOR MLA ANNUAL CONFERENCE PROPOSALS

Proposal forms for the MLA Conference, October 14-17, 2014, at the Vicksburg Convention Center in historic Vicksburg, MS are available with a deadline of Monday, May 12.

The theme for this year is *#ConnectingTheWorld@MississippiLibraries* and is based on social media and marketing. The proposal form on the MLA website at the following address:

[library.msstate.edu/mla-annual/  
proposal.php](http://library.msstate.edu/mla-annual/proposal.php)

Both individuals as well as for divisions/sections/roundtables should use the above form. Questions should be directed to Patsy Brewer electronically at [wlib@wwcls.lib.ms.us](mailto:wlib@wwcls.lib.ms.us) or toll free at 1-800-735-2268 to the Waynesboro-Wayne County Library.

*Submitted by*

Patsy C. Brewer  
Vice-President, MLA

## IMAGES SOUGHT FOR ARCHIVES MONTH

The Society of Mississippi Archivists is seeking images for Mississippi's 2014 Archives Month poster. This year's theme will commemorate the 50th anniversary of Freedom Summer, one of the major civil rights event that occurred in Mississippi in 1964.

Interested parties are invited to submit two images that are representative of their museum, archival, or library collections for consideration on this year's poster. The Society is looking for a variety of visually engaging material including,

but not limited to: album covers, artifacts, books, broadsides, correspondence, diaries, documents, drawings, motion picture film, maps, microfilm, musical instruments, paintings, photographs, postcards, and sheet music.

The images must be available for publication without any copyright restrictions or question of ownership and accompanied by any necessary publication permission form(s), the institution's preferred citation(s), and information about the image. Images may be black and white or RGB color, the originals should be no smaller than 5"x7" (or scanned at higher resolution for originals that are smaller than 5"x7"), and they should be submitted as JPG or TIFF files of no less than 300 dpi resolution.

Please submit images to Jennifer Brannock at [Jennifer.Brannock@usm.edu](mailto:Jennifer.Brannock@usm.edu) by 5:00 p.m., Friday, May 2, 2014.

*Submitted by*

Jennifer Brannock  
Curator of Rare Books and Mississippiana  
University of Southern Mississippi

## MLA POSTER SESSION SUBMISSIONS OPEN

The MLA Poster Session Committee welcomes proposals for the annual conference to be held in Vicksburg, MS (Oct. 14-17).

Poster sessions offer the library community an opportunity to feature valuable projects or programs, innovative services provided to patrons or employees, and/or research that is of interest to the library community.

To submit your proposal, please complete the form available at:

[library.msstate.edu/mla-annual/  
proposals-ps.php](http://library.msstate.edu/mla-annual/proposals-ps.php)

The deadline for submissions is Monday, May 12, 2014. Selected presenters will be contacted shortly after the review process is complete.

Please feel free to contact David Nolen at [dnolen@library.msstate.edu](mailto:dnolen@library.msstate.edu) with

any questions.

*Submitted by*

David Nolen

Reference Librarian  
Mississippi State University Libraries

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## PHIL HARDIN FOUNDATION GIFT FUNDS LIBRARY AT MSU-MERIDIAN

Mississippi State University officials dedicated the new Phil Hardin Foundation Library at the Meridian College Park Campus on December 3rd.

A \$1.25 million gift by the Meridian-based foundation made possible the new 1,860 square-foot university library that opened in November.

The new facility was created through the renovation of three existing spaces formerly used for classrooms. Though MSU-Meridian has employed a faculty librarian for more than a decade, it represents the first physical library on the College Park Campus.

In remarks during the ceremony, MSU President Mark E. Keenum called the facility a significant educational asset, adding that libraries are the "heart" of all institutions of higher learning.

"We are extremely proud of this new library and profoundly grateful to the Phil Hardin Foundation for the gift that made it possible," Keenum said.

Keenum also observed that the building's array of print and electronic resources and instructional technologies are located in a picturesque setting that includes a scenic lake view.

In addition to housing 8,000 print volumes and journals, the library's resources include 16 public computer workstations, 15 laptop computers, a conference room, microfilm reader print station, and instructional laboratory and teacher station with capacity for 30 students.

Keenum praised and thanked Meridian Community College, which has made its L. O. Todd Library available to MSU students for many years.

"Now, we are delighted to be able

to welcome MCC students, and those from Meridian and Lauderdale County schools, to freely use this facility," Keenum said. The university looks forward to a long and cooperative relationship between the Hardin Foundation and Todd libraries for the mutual benefit of both, he added.

Robert F. Ward, president of the Phil Hardin Foundation Board of Directors, said the gift represents the latest example of the organization's mission "to improve the education of Mississippians." "This wonderful facility will provide a significant environment for reflection and study for students at MSU-Meridian, Meridian Community College and the broader community," Ward said. "This project is an excellent fit with the mission of our foundation."

Frances Coleman, dean of MSU Libraries, echoed Keenum and Ward's remarks: "We are extremely grateful to the Phil Hardin Foundation for their generous support of our efforts to enhance library services at the MSU-Meridian campus," Coleman said. "We long have appreciated our cooperative relationship with Meridian Community College and know this facility will expand cooperation."

Coleman also reminded those in attendance that the Hardin Foundation Library offers access to the same services

and resources available on the Starkville campus.

For more information about MSU, see [www.msstate.edu](http://www.msstate.edu); for MSU-Meridian, [www.meridian.msstate.edu](http://www.meridian.msstate.edu).

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

munity members as they strolled through the Indianola City Cemetery. Come on out for the next group of Headstone Stories, support local youth, and meet Indianola's history!

*Submitted by  
Jennifer Rose  
Public History Coordinator  
Sunflower County Library System*

## HEADSTONE STORIES: MEETING INDIANOLA'S HISTORY!

Cemeteries are a source of history and education for local communities. Since 2010, the Sunflower County Library System has partnered with the Indianola Academy's 6th Grade class to present "Headstone Stories." Headstone Stories is an academic program that introduces students to archives, primary sources, and historical research, while educating the community about local history.

A cemetery stroll is when a group of people research interred individuals, reconstructing their lifetime and the community around them, then creating a vignette to perform for spectators at the cemetery. The Indianola Academy's 6th Grade class writes a five part research pa-

per documenting the political, economical, social, cultural and being a rural area, agricultural aspects of the interred individual's time period.

Students think "global to local," what was going on in the world, the United States, Mississippi, Sunflower County, Indianola and finally their person. For two months the students research the interred and then on Saturday, April 12th, 10am to noon, they presented their findings to com-

## MISSISSIPPI LIBRARY COMMISSION ANNOUNCES 2013 MISSISSIPPI LIBRARY LEADERSHIP GRADUATING CLASS

The Mississippi Library Commission is pleased to announce the graduation of the 2013 class of the Mississippi Library Leadership Institute. Twenty-six rising stars in the library profession participated in a year-long program designed to grow the next generation of library leaders in the state of Mississippi.

The Mississippi Library Leadership Institute is a transformational experience requiring participants to attend four three-day training sessions, study leadership theory between sessions, and undertake a community project. The Institute emphasizes experiences that build strong relationships with community partners and involve a very high level of intensity and risk-taking.

"Participation in the Institute is an intensive professional experience that requires a significant commitment of time and energy; however, it is also extremely rewarding and fun for participants who emerge from the program poised to position their libraries and communities for success in an increasingly complex, information-centric world," said Jennifer Walker, Project Director.

The goals of the Mississippi Library Leadership Institute are to improve participants' abilities to:

1. Make judgments and decisions by effectively analyzing evidence, arguments, claims, beliefs and alternate points of view; make connections between information and arguments; interpret information on the best analysis; reflect critically on learning experiences and processes.

2. Communicate clearly by articulating thoughts and ideas effectively using oral, written and nonverbal communication skills; listen effectively to decipher mean-



Taking part in the dedication and ribbon cutting of the Phil Hardin Foundation Library at the Mississippi State University-Meridian College Park campus on Tuesday were, left to right: Melanie Thomas, MSU-Meridian Library Services Coordinator; MSU Provost Jerry Gilbert; Hardin Foundation executive director Rebecca Combs-Dulaney; Hardin Foundation director Robert B. Deen Jr.; MSU Dean of Libraries Frances N. Coleman; Hardin Foundation Board of Directors President Robert F. Ward; MSU President Mark E. Keenum; Hardin Foundation director Stephen O. Moore; and Steven F. Brown, Dean of MSU-Meridian. Photograph by Sid Salter.

ing; use communication for a range of purposes; utilize multiple media and technologies and know how to judge their effectiveness in communication.

3. Guide and lead others through the use of interpersonal and problem solving skills to influence and guide others toward goals; leverage strength of others to accomplish common goals; inspire others to reach their very best via example & selflessness; demonstrate integrity and ethical behavior in using influence and power.

Participants in the 2013 Mississippi Library Leadership Institute represented twenty-one different institutions from across the state including K-12 schools, public libraries, community colleges, private colleges, four-year universities, archives, and state agencies. Participants were selected in a competitive application process that required written statements on the future of librarianship, the applicant's vision of service, and how participation in the Institute would benefit the individual and his or her community.

The Mississippi Library Leadership Institute is made possible in part by a Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program grant from the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services to the Mississippi Library Commission.

The full 2013 Mississippi Library Leadership Institute class is below:

Blair Booker, Holmes Community College, Ridgeland, Miss.  
 Jennifer Brannock, The University of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg, Miss.  
 Brandon Cain, Mid-Mississippi Regional Library System, Kosciusko, Miss.  
 Phillip Carter, Bolivar County Library System, Cleveland, Miss.  
 Sarah Crisler-Ruskey, Carnegie Public Library of Clarksdale & Coahoma County, Clarksdale, Miss.  
 Sarah Dauterive, East Mississippi Community College, Scooba, Miss.  
 Melissa Dennis, University of Mississippi, Oxford, Miss.  
 Lacy Ellinwood, Mississippi Library Commission, Jackson, Miss.  
 Judy Greenwood, University of Mississippi, Oxford, Miss.  
 Jessica Herr, The Library of Hattiesburg, Petal, & Forrest County, Hattiesburg, Miss.  
 Sylvia Leggette, Cardozo Middle School, Jackson, Miss.  
 Molly McManus, Millsaps College, Jackson, Miss.

Ally Mellon, Mississippi Library Commission, Jackson, Miss.

Maggie Moran, Northwest Mississippi Community College, Senatobia, Miss.  
 Jennifer Nabzdyk, Mississippi Library Commission, Jackson, Miss.

Carol Phares, Pearl River County Library System, Picayune, Miss.

Victoria Penny, First Regional Library System, Hernando, Miss.

Chameka Robinson, University of Mississippi Medical Center, Jackson, Miss.

Randy Smith, Jackson-George Regional Library System, Gautier, Miss.

Jennifer Stephenson, Greenwood-Leflore Library System, Greenwood, Miss.

Erin Busbea Stringer, Columbus-Lowndes Library System, Columbus, Miss.

Mara Villa, Central Mississippi Regional Library System, Brandon, Miss.

Ally Watkins, Central Mississippi Regional Library System, Pearl, Miss.

Heather Weeden, Mississippi Baptist Historical Commission, Clinton, Miss.

Jeanette Whisenton, Jackson Public Schools, Jackson, Miss.

Ryda Worthy, South Mississippi Regional Library System, Columbia, Miss.

*Submitted by*

*Jennifer Walker*

*Director of Development Services  
Mississippi Library Commission*

rators who give us a guided behind-the-scenes tour, share their expertise, and show us examples from their collections.

The course is taught by Dr. Teresa S. Welsh ([teresa.welsh@usm.edu](mailto:teresa.welsh@usm.edu)), Associate Professor of Library & Information Science. Learn more about the course at <http://www.usm.edu/library-information-science/british-studies>

The Southern Miss School of Library and Information Science offers an online MLIS degree, a Graduate Certificate in Archives & Special Collections, and a Graduate Certificate in Youth Services & Literature ([usm.edu/library-information-science/graduate-programs](http://usm.edu/library-information-science/graduate-programs)).

*Submitted by*

*Teresa S. Welsh*

*Associate Professor of Library & Information Science*

*University of Southern Mississippi*

## NEW TRAVELING EXHIBITION TELLS A STORY OF LIBERTY AND THE AMERICAN EXPERIENCE

"*Changing America: The Emancipation Proclamation, 1863, and the March on Washington, 1963*," a traveling exhibition opening at the The University of Southern Mississippi Gulf Coast Library on March 26, 2014 examines the relationship between two great people's movements that resulted in the Emancipation Proclamation in 1863, and the March on Washington in 1963. Both grew out of decades of bold actions, resistance, organization, and vision. One hundred years separate them, yet they are linked in a larger story of liberty and the American experience – one that has had a profound impact on the generations that followed.

"We are pleased to have been selected as a site for this exhibition," said Shugana Williams, Librarian. "The dramatic story of how these two pivotal events came into being, a century apart, and how each helped put the nation on a course toward fulfilling its commitment to liberty and justice for all, is one that can inspire all Americans. Decades of work, struggle and sacrifice by many dedicated individuals and groups preceded both of these events. The exhibition tells the story of these struggles and their impact on American history and on the extension of equal rights to all Americans. We are also de-

## BRITISH STUDIES COURSE

This summer students will once again have the opportunity to study library & information science/archival studies in London through a four-week course offered by the British Studies Program ([usm.edu/bsp](http://usm.edu/bsp)).

The program is offered June 26 - July 27, 2014 and carries six hours of graduate credit from The University of Southern Mississippi, a fully-accredited institution of higher learning, and the School of Library & Information Science (SLIS), a program accredited by the American Library Association.

The course focuses on historic repositories in Britain, covering the history and scope of specific collections as well as their organization and preservation. Our classrooms are the libraries, archives, and museums of London and Edinburgh. We won't be hearing from boring lecturers; rather, we'll be on-site, hearing directly from British librarians, archivists, and cu-

lighted that the Long Beach Public Library has agreed to serve as a co-sponsor."

Emancipation from slavery was not the product of one act but of many. In the 19th century, enslaved and free Americans chipped away at slavery through daily acts of resistance, organized rebellions, and political pressure on politicians, generals, and the U.S. government. Finally, on September 22, 1862, Abraham Lincoln issued the preliminary Emancipation Proclamation, which ordered that as of January 1, 1863, all enslaved individuals in all areas still in rebellion against the United States "henceforward shall be free," and under the protection of the military.

The Emancipation Proclamation was limited in scope and revolutionary in impact. It committed the nation to ending slavery. The U.S. Congress responded with Constitutional amendments abolishing slavery, expanding citizenship rights, and giving black men the right to vote. These acts changed the political landscape, but the new freedoms were stripped away in the following years. However, on each Emancipation Day anniversary, Black Americans organized parades and speeches reminding the black community and the entire nation of a commitment that remained unfulfilled.

These local Emancipation Day celebrations and many other actions set the stage for the national push for freedom in the 20th century. On August 28, 1963, an estimated 250,000 Americans gathered at the Lincoln Memorial in the District of Columbia to mark the 100th anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation. People traveled from every state, united across race, class, and ideological lines, and representing organizations, unions, churches or simply themselves. The prayers, electrifying speeches, and stirring music of that day served to remind Americans of the nation's commitment to fulfill its founding principles of liberty and equality for all.

In the months following the march, demonstrations and violence continued to pressure political leaders to act. The Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965 were turning points in the struggle for equality. The bills outlawed segregated public facilities and prohibited discrimination in employment and voting. The success of the March on Washington and the achievements of the modern struggle for civil rights have provided a lasting model for social change.

"Changing America: The Emancipation Proclamation, 1863 and the March on Washington, 1963" is presented by the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture and the National Museum of American History in collaboration with the American Library Association Public Programs Office. The tour of the exhibition is made possible by the National Endowment for the Humanities: Exploring the Human Endeavor.

The exhibition will travel to 50 venues across the nation, accompanied by public programming that will help audiences understand and discuss the relationship between these two great people's movements.

The University of Southern Mississippi library is sponsoring free programs and other public events in connection with the exhibition. Contact Shugana Williams at 228-214-3423 or shugana.williams@usm.edu for more information.

"Changing America" will be on display at the USM until May 1, 2014.

#### *Program Sponsor Notes:*

The National Museum of African American History and Culture was established as a Smithsonian museum by an Act of Congress in 2003. It is the only national museum devoted exclusively to the documentation of African American life, art, history and culture. Groundbreaking for the \$500 million museum took place in February 2013 in a ceremony featuring remarks by President Barack Obama; former First Lady Laura Bush, a member of the museum's advisory council; and Rep. John Lewis (D-Ga.) who submitted the legislation that created the museum. It is now under construction on Washington's National Mall, on a five-acre site adjacent to the Washington Monument. It is scheduled to open in winter 2015. For more information, visit nmaahc.si.edu.

The National Museum of American History collects, preserves and displays American heritage through exhibitions and public programs about social, political, cultural, scientific and military history. Documenting the American experience from Colonial times to the present, the museum looks at growth and change in the United States. For more information, visit americanhistory.si.edu.

Created in 1965 as an independent federal agency, the National Endowment for the Humanities supports learning in

history, literature, philosophy and other areas of the humanities. NEH grants enrich classroom learning, create and preserve knowledge and bring ideas to life through public television, radio, new technologies, exhibitions and programs in libraries, museums and other community places. Additional information about the National Endowment for the Humanities and its grant programs is available at [www.neh.gov](http://www.neh.gov).

#### *Submitted by*

*Shugana Williams*

*Assistant Director, Evelyn Gandy Cultural Center*

*Coordinator, Gulf South Historical Association*

## **CANTON LIBRARY RECEIVED A 2014 SUMMER READING RESOURCES GRANT**

The Canton Library, a branch of the Madison County Library System, received a 2014 Summer Reading Resources Grant from YALSA and the Dollar General Literacy Foundation. This grant will fund weekly science and technology workshops for teens at the Canton Library during its 2014 Summer Reading Program. Jaclyn Lewis, the Youth Services Director for MCLS, is the project coordinator.

#### *Submitted by*

*Jaclyn Lewis*

*Youth Services Director*

*Madison County Library System*

# People in the News

**Tina Harry**

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

There are a number of exciting new job opportunities for Mississippi librarians this spring.

Holmes Community College has announced that it is seeking applicants for two Assistant Librarian positions. Any interested candidates may get further information and apply at: [holmescc.simplehire.com/postings/search](http://holmescc.simplehire.com/postings/search)

In addition, the Raymond Campus of Hinds Community College, has two further openings for an Administrative Librarian and a Reference/Archives librarian. Candidates are urged to apply online at: [hindscce.peopleadmin.com/postings/search](http://hindscce.peopleadmin.com/postings/search) if interested.

The Board of Trustees of First Regional Library has appointed **Judy Card** as Interim Director, effective November 1st, 2013. Current FRL Director Catherine Nathan will be retiring on October 31st, after 19 years of working for First Regional Library; Nathan has been Director since 2005. Ms. Card will be Interim Director until The Board of Trustees appoints a new Director for the five county library system.



A native of East Tennessee, Ms. Card holds a Master's in Library Science from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville and retired from the Memphis and Shelby County Library System in 2003

after 25 years. In Memphis she directed the Main Library Children's Department, an Adult Literacy Project, and served as Staff Development Officer. In 2004 she was named Librarian of the Year by the Memphis Area Library Council. Since 2006, she has been the Youth Services Coordinator for First Regional Library, leading a Summer Library Program that registered over 18,000 this past summer. She is past co-chair of the Mississippi Library Association's Young People's Services Round Table. She has served as Board Chair for the Magnolia Award, Mississippi's Children's Choice Award and since 2010 has participated in the DeSoto Economic Council's Salute to Education Committee. She currently serves on the Advisory Board of Literacy Mid-South which now offers services in North Mississippi.

"I'm honored our Board has the confidence in me to take this leadership role," said Card. "I look forward to working with the Board and staff to continue providing excellent library service during this time of transition."



**Alison Bentley** has been named the new Head Librarian for the Batesville Public Library in Batesville, MS. The DeSoto County native graduated 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."

The Jackson-George Regional Library System Board of Trustees has named **Lori Ward Smith** as Director beginning November 1st. She was promoted from the Pascagoula Public Library where she served as branch manager for the past three years. She will take the position that was held by Carol Hewlett who recently retired with 15 years of service with the system.

"I am incredibly happy to be selected as library system director," said Ms. Smith. "I feel fortunate to be able to work with such a capable group of people who are totally committed to public service. I look forward to working with all the libraries and communities we serve."



While living in Pascagoula as a child, Lori received her first library card at the Pascagoula Public Library. She previously served as director of the Pickens County Cooperative Library System in Carrollton, Alabama. Lori is a graduate of the University of Southern Mississippi and was awarded her Master of Library Service degree at the University of Alabama. For more information about the Jackson-George Regional Library System, visit online at [www.jgrls.org](http://www.jgrls.org).

**Shirlene Stogner**, Associate Professor and Reference Librarian for Education and Psychology, retired at the end of November 2013 after twenty-six years of service to The University of Southern Mississippi.

This culminated a forty-year career as a librarian, beginning at D'Iberville Junior Senior High School in 1973, and including nine years at Forrest County Agricultural High School (1975-1984) and two years at Mathiston Attendance Center (1984-1986).

In 1990, Ms. Stogner was awarded the university's Excellence in Librarianship Award. The award recognized a full-time faculty member who had significantly contributed in the practice of librarianship through excellent performance that enhanced the dissemination of knowledge and the advancement of learning.

Ms. Stogner was an active member of the Mississippi Library Association (MLA) throughout her career at Southern Miss. Her MLA service included two elected positions—treasurer (1998-2000) and secretary of the Association of College and Research Libraries-Mississippi Chapter of the Mississippi Library Association (1994). Ms. Stogner served four terms as chair (1991, 1992, 2001, and 2004) and two terms as secretary (2005, 2006) of the MLA Library Instruction Round Table and also chaired the Elections Committee (1995), Membership Committee (1993 & 1997), and Registration Committee (1992). In addition, she served as the association's parliamentarian and was a member of at least six other MLA committees—Author Awards, Fiscal Management, Handbook, Internal Audit, MAGNOLIA Training, and Publications. Ms. Stogner has been the indexer of Mississippi Libraries since 2000.

The University of Southern Mississippi Libraries invited friends and colleagues of Ms. Stogner to join in a celebration of her career and offer best wishes for her retirement at a reception held on November 22 in the Cook Library Art Gallery.

**Jesse Kelley** has been named the new Instructional Resources Center Librarian at Delta State University. Jesse grew up in Jones County Mississippi and received his MS in History and MLIS from the Univer-

sity of Southern Mississippi. "I couldn't be happier to be at Delta State University" Kelley says, "The facilities are amazing and the people here go out of their way to make you feel comfortable." Jesse's research interests include incorporating Library 2.0 technologies into library instruction and studying Southern culture. In his free time he enjoys playing guitar, cooking, and traveling the Mississippi delta."

**Hillary Richardson** has been named Humanities Librarian at Mississippi State University's Mitchell Memorial Library. Richardson earned a master's degree in library and information science from the University of Southern Mississippi. She also holds a master's degree in English from the University of Mississippi, and she graduated Millsaps College with a bachelor's degree in English.

At Mitchell Memorial Library, Richardson previously served as Instructional Services Librarian and a Library Associate in Electronic Resources. She is a member of the Library's eResources and Emerging Technologies (LEETS) Committee and the Electronic Resources Evaluation Committee (EREC).

Richardson was also an adjunct instructor at Mississippi University for Women in Columbus, Miss., where she taught English composition.

She is a member of the American Library Association and the Mississippi Library Association. While enrolled at USM, she was a member of the Southern Miss Student Archivists Association and the Library and Information Science Student Association. She serves as a judge for Destination Imagination in Mississippi Schools and has volunteered in the library and archives of Mississippi University for Women and the Eudora Welty House.

Last year Richardson's review of *Colonel William C. Faulkner: Death on the Courthouse Square* was published in the spring edition of *Mississippi Libraries*. Her work, "Revelations from the Literature: How Web-Scale Discovery Has Already Changed Us" was published in a 2013 issue of *Computers in Libraries*.

At MSU, Richardson will be a member of the newly created Research Services Department at Mitchell Memorial Library, combining the reference, instruction, and government documents and services to serve the MSU community's re-

search needs through in-person and virtual reference transactions, instruction, and consultations. She will serve MSU's Humanities departments as their subject librarian.

**Nacole Adams** has joined Delta State University's Roberts-LaForge Library as an Assistant Professor of Library Services/Reference & Instructional Services Librarian. She received an MLIS degree from the University of Southern Mississippi and worked as a Librarian at Jackson State University before coming to DSU. Nacole will conduct library tours, instruct classes on research skills, and work closely with DSU faculty on outreach projects.

**Dupont, Carolyn.** *Mississippi Praying: Southern White Evangelicals and the Civil Rights Movement, 1945-1975*. New York: NYU Press, 2013. 303 pp. \$55.00 (hardcover).

Any amateur historian would guess the majority of white Mississippians did not actively support the Civil Rights movement. However, their relationship with the movement becomes more complex if you consider most white Mississippians believed themselves to be deeply religious. How Mississippians were able to resolve this seemingly obvious conflict between their religion and their deeply held racial values is the central theme of Carolyn Renee Dupont's *Mississippi Praying: Southern White Evangelicals and the Civil Rights Movement, 1945-1975*.

In short, Dupont argues most white Mississippians believed their dominant position atop the racial hierarchy was part of the Lord's blessing. With this view in mind, they were able to justify their active role in maintaining the racial status quo. This is an important point because it refutes the commonly held notion that white Christians were unable to advance racial equality due to "cultural captivity." The idea of "cultural captivity," that Dupont brings up in the introduction and debunks over the next nine chapters, argued white Christians were unable to step beyond the boundaries put in place by the church's leadership and prevailing Southern culture.

Essentially, this argument absolves white Mississippians of guilt because it portrays them as passive captors, not active participants in maintaining the racial hierarchy. Dupont attacks this argument by purposefully replacing more benign terms like "segregation" with confrontational language like "white supremacy" when discussing Mississippi's racial structure. She is also aggressive in uncovering how church leadership directed conversation away from Civil Rights by proclaiming it a political topic. The author's confrontational and direct language makes this book an intense read. Her argument relies more on provocation, though it is well constructed and persuasive.

Anyone interested in how Christian Mississippians viewed the Civil Rights Movement would find this book very informative. Also, the book offers a clear example of how cultural institutions like religion are used to maintain the status quo. This book would also be a good addition for academic or public libraries collecting Mississippiana.

**Jesse Kelley**  
*Instructional Resources Center Librarian*  
*Delta State University*

**Hodges, John O.** *Delta Fragments: The Recollections of a Sharecropper's Son*. Knoxville, TN: The University of Tennessee Press, 2013. 228 pp. \$34.95 (hardcover).

John O. Hodges' memoir is told in a series of episodic narratives – vignettes – that give a first-hand account of sharecropper life in the Mississippi Delta during the segregated, Jim Crow era of the 1950s and 1960s. The accounts given rely more on the author's memory of events than on relying entirely on stark facts and detail. The work was originally intended as a series of essays focusing on the religion and culture of the Yazoo-Mississippi Delta and eventually shifted from an objective point-of-view on culture in the rural south to a candid, first-hand account of segregation, oppression, perseverance, and success.

Hodges' writing style can be a bit dry and non-compelling, but the real strength of the work is in the accounts he provides. His accounts of working in the fields, attending school during split sessions so that the kids could go pick cotton, patching walls with newspaper to keep the cold out, and the Saturday nights on the town are evocative and poignant. He maintains a sense of how inherently wrong the treatment of sharecroppers was without going as far as to condemn those caught up in the practices. The segmented writing approach utilized by Hodges works very well with his less compelling narrative style. The reader is allowed to continue at their own pace, picking up and putting down the story as they like. The author also includes a bibliography for further reading, footnotes to explain anecdotal and colloquial terminology, and an index for reference.

While not a book that is likely to be read cover to cover, John Hodges has provided a unique perspective of life in the Mississippi Delta during a very difficult time in American history. While the book includes a good deal of scholarly research, it is the personal, and sometimes emotional, nature of the work that is its greatest asset. This book is recommended for any library but will particularly appeal to public and academic libraries in the Mississippi Delta or those libraries with significant materials pertaining to race relations, Jim Crow Era Mississippi history, or the Civil Rights movement.

**Phillip Carter**  
Assistant Director  
*Bolivar County Library System*

**Lamb, J. Parker.** *Railroads of Meridian*. With contributions by David H. Bridges and David S. Price. Bloomington, Indiana: Indiana University Press, ©2012. 162 pp. \$50.00 (hardcover).

One of the most recent additions to the *Railroads Past & Present* series from Indiana University Press, J. Parker Lamb's *Railroads of Meridian* covers the history of the railroads that passed through Meridian, Mississippi, from their pre-Civil War beginnings to current times. Meridian was a significant junction, not only for north-south routes, but also for a 32<sup>nd</sup> latitude connection of the east coast of North America with its west coast; an idea envisioned in the 1830s, but not fully realized in an efficient fashion until the 1990s.

The introduction opens with railroads of the early-nineteenth century Industrial Revolution, and notes the placement of Meridian (formerly known either as Sowashee, or as Ball's Log Store) between the Mississippi and Tombigbee Rivers, on trade routes used to carry goods to New Orleans and Mobile. In ten chapters, the author Lamb, with assistance in various places from co-authors David H. Bridges and David S. Price, traces Meridian's railroad history from the era of the steam locomotive, through the conversion to diesel-electric engines in the 1940s, on through the railroad mergers that occurred in the late-twentieth century climate of loosened federal regulations. A summarizing epilogue brings this volume to a satisfying close.

Clearly, this book is written with the railroad enthusiast in mind, as the text assumes some familiarity with railroad-specific terminology and acronyms. For example, a steam locomotive may be identified as a "4-4-0," with no explanation of the numbering system that enumerates a locomotive's respective leading, driving, and trailing wheels. While the narrative of various railroad mergers occasionally requires the reader's fully-engaged attention, many chapters end with a helpful table that summarizes these transformations.

Lamb's interest in railroads dates back to his boyhood in Meridian in the 1930s and 1940s. Weaving his own story into Meridian's railway history, the author also reveals his photographic expertise. A good portion of the high-quality photographs in this finely-bound volume (which is replete with black-and-white photos and color plates) have been taken by Lamb. Bibliographical references appear at the end of the book, with parenthetical citations in the text. This book is highly-recommended for both public and academic libraries, especially those that collect items relating to Mississippi and its history.

**Rick Torgerson**  
Cataloger, Roberts-LaForge Library  
Delta State University

**Laymon, Kiese.** *Long Division*. Chicago: Agate Bolden, 2013. 276 pp. \$15.00 (paperback).

Kiese Laymon's *Long Division* is a story within a story, exploring the relationships between events taking place in 2013, 1985, and 1964. In the spring of 2013, protagonist Citoyen "City" Coldson has a meltdown during a nationally-televised vocabulary competition and becomes an instant YouTube sensation. As a result, City's mother sends him to stay with his grandmother in the tiny coastal town of Melahatchie, Mississippi, where a girl named Baize Shepard has recently gone missing.

All the while, City begins reading "Long Division," a mysterious book given to him by his school principal. To his surprise, the book's main character is also named City Coldson, but this City is a teenager in 1985. 1985 City and his friend Shalaya Crump travel through time to 2013, where they run into a girl called Baize Shepard. They later accompany a third time traveler to 1964, where they try to save their families from the Ku Klux Klan - with unintended consequences that not only impact their lives but Baize's and 2013 City's as well.

Despite having a magical realist plot, *Long Division*'s characters and the emotions it explores feel very vivid and real. This is because Laymon's writing is visceral, engaging and well-crafted. He is able to capture the essence of each time period; 2013 City and his 1985 counterpart, for instance, are similar yet distinct characters. *Long Division* is told through the perspective of these two teenagers, which adds some fun and humor to balance out the novel's heavier themes. Likewise, although the forward and backward time travel does make for a complex story arc, all of the pieces come together in a way that is satisfying to the reader.

Due to its mature themes and adult language, *Long Division* is not suitable for young children. However, the novel will appeal to those Mississippians who lived through the time periods depicted in the novel as well as to anyone who enjoys contemporary fiction. All academic and public libraries, especially those that collect the works of African-American and/or Mississippi-born authors, should consider purchasing a copy of *Long Division* for their collections.

**Elena Azadbakht**

*Reference Librarian for Health Sciences*

*University of Southern Mississippi*

**Metcalfe, Gayden and Charlotte Hays.** *Being Dead is No Excuse: The Official Southern Ladies Guide to Hosting the Perfect Funeral.* New York: Hyperion, 2012. 263 pp. \$14.99 (paperback).

Gayden Metcalfe and Charlotte Hays have developed a hilarious how-to manual for hosting an authentic Southern funeral. The book is divided into seven chapters with recipes provided throughout each chapter. The authors begin by providing some general background on funerals in the south and the appropriate rules that should be followed, before, during and after a proper southern send-off. Then throughout the work, they continue to draw the reader in through entertaining anecdotes.

First published in 2005, this printing includes more recipes and an informative afterword that chronicles the author's adventures on the road while promoting the book. Even though this book is technically about death and funerals, strangely enough it will likely keep you smiling and laughing throughout. The book does lack photos of the recipes; however, this does not take away from the task that the authors set out to accomplish. This work would be a great addition to public library collections.

**Chameka S. Robinson**  
*Head, Access Services*  
*Rowland Medical Library*  
*University of Mississippi Medical Center*