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Contents

Editor's Note (2)

Alex Watson

Chromebooks in the Small Public Library (3)

Sarah Crisler-Ruskey

Winston Country Libraries and the 2014 Mississippi Tornado Outbreak (4)

Beth Edwards

Created Equal: Continuing the Civil Rights Conversation at Mississippi State University (7)

Hillary A. H. Richardson

Sheeji Kathuria

News Briefs (10)

People in the News (13)

Book Reviews: (15)

Blame It on the Black Star

The Oleander Sisters

Tupelo (Images of America Series)

Down and Out in Bugtussle

A Deed So Accursed: Lynching in Mississippi and South Carolina, 1881-1940

On the cover: "Grey Cotton" by Liz Bass of Olive Branch, MS. Used with permission

Editor's Note

I thought I'd give you an idea of what things look like behind the scenes here at *Mississippi Libraries*.

We're currently shooting for four issues a year, spring, summer, fall, and winter—an issue for every season, as it were. The work of assembling an issue starts well before the official notice goes out, often a month or more ahead of time!

The first and most important thing for *Mississippi Libraries* is content in the form of articles. They are the meat in our hamburger, as it were, and one of the best ways to disseminate ideas. The call for papers will be the first thing to go out from the new issue, though we will sometimes have articles already set aside for special issues or that came in too late for consideration in the previous issue.

It's equally important to have a decent amount of time between the call for papers and publication. We're a busy profession, and a lot of librarians in Mississippi are jolted into writing an article by the announcement itself, and we want to give them time to complete their projects.

While that's going on, our reporter is beating the bushes for news stories and new additions to library staffs all around the state. It may seem a little funny to include news like that in the age of the 24-hour news cycle, but our antics rarely make the local news, and we're not always fans of each others' Facebook pages. The news serves as a convenient clearing-

house of library information that it would otherwise take a while to find and collate, even for an information professional!

At the same time, our book review editor is in the midst of sending out titles to be read and reviewed by librarians statewide. It's an important task, made all the more so by the fact that our reviewed titles tend to be more local and therefore less likely to show up in places like Amazon. If nothing else, the reviews give libraries with limited shelf space and budgets a



Alex Watson
Editor, Mississippi Libraries

few good books to consider seeking out (or a few bad ones to avoid).

Gathering articles and reviews can take a long time, and this is the first place where delays can creep in. What if there aren't enough submissions, or if reviewers are tardy getting their titles to our review editor? There's a joke that whatever library the editor is from is overrepresented in *Mississippi Libraries* because it's easier to shanghai people into writing when they're close by...and it's true!

Once enough reviews, news, and articles have been received to put together an issue, the fun isn't quite over! All contributors have to fill out a required author form giving *Mississippi Libraries* a legal leg to stand on in case icky questions of copyright and permissions emerge that might otherwise require expensive lawyers to untangle.

The required author form is another place where delays can creep in, as people are often very busy and miss the email asking for it. But we can't go forward without the permissions, so we have to track people down and get scans or faxes of their John Hancock no matter how long it takes. We've never had to drop a person's article because they couldn't be reached to sign, but we've come close!

Finally, all the raw reviews and raw articles have to be edited by the review editor and the managing editor—me—to make sure the formatting is correct and to try and suss out any misspellings or other errors. Everything gets exported to a shiny new PDF for maximum readability and then uploaded into the Open Journal System that constitutes the backbone of our journal. And like any system there are often bugs to be ironed out and mistakes in the uploading /review process.

They say you should never watch laws or sausage being made lest you lose your appetite for them; it's my sincere hope that nobody is put off by my drawing aside the curtain to give you a peek into *Mississippi Libraries* with all its foibles.

Chromebooks in the Small Public Library

Sarah Crisler-Ruskey

Director

Carnegie Public Library of Clarksdale and Coahoma County

INTRODUCTION

Finding a balance between providing outstanding digital services to patrons without overtaxing staff challenges many small libraries. Our library has a staff of 8 and offers 10 PCs for adults, 7 for children and teens, and 4 for teens exclusively.

We do not have a staff member dedicated to IT to manage our devices, so we rely on Deep Freeze and other software to assist in maintaining our current workstations. With the stations thus protected, we are able to troubleshoot and maintain the system ourselves for the most part.

However, when we decided to add to our Internet access options, it was essential to choose a solution that would not put a troubleshooting and management burden on staff and that would be easy for patrons to use.

PROBLEMS

Though we did not have a constant issue with wait times for computers, we definitely needed more access options for patrons, especially more flexibility to provide computer classes and workshops and to offer mobility to patrons wanting to work in groups or simply to sit in a more comfortable location.

Our PCs are fixed and in the open floor of the main library and Children's room, with only the four teen computers actually in a separate room that can be closed off. With limited financial and staff options, we considered various ways to fill our need for flexible devices.

Many libraries provide iPads, but we rejected them as both too expensive to provide the ten additional devices we wanted, too cumbersome to manage, and not ideal for courses and workshops because they would need a keyboard to approximate PC usage for patrons wanting to learn in a more traditional environment. Staff would also have to select apps to

download and ensure that patrons did not access or purchase apps without authorization. This is not a problem for a library with a dedicated staff, but we felt that it would not work for us. We also rejected Android and Windows tablets for similar reasons.

CHROMEBOOKS AS SOLUTIONS

The Chromebook proved a workable solution. It is inexpensive (\$249) and lightweight. Though it has a small screen, it is large enough for most basic uses. There are no apps or software to select or to manage; patrons can simply browse, or they can access Google docs and Gmail to create documents and to email.

Through an LSTA grant administered by the Mississippi Library Commission, we were able to purchase a total of 10 Chromebooks, giving us plenty of capacity for workshops or classes, a locking charging cart for security, and large adhesive decals branded with the library logo to identify them. Each Chromebook received a barcode and was cataloged for in-library use only. We placed a tattle strip under each decal for added security. We publicized them via our newsletter, social media, and via direct staff suggestions.

The results are encouraging. In non-scientific, written survey we asked Chromebook users to complete, 57% had not used a Chromebook before, while 43% had. A large majority, 71%, were able to complete their tasks using the Chromebook; about 14% were not, and about the same percentage did not respond to the question.

Issues reported were preferring a mouse to the touchpad, the small size of the device, and battery life, though this was a minority of patrons. Most patrons use them for a less lengthy session. Positives mentioned were "efficiency," being able to sit anywhere in the building, preferring the Chromebook experience to desktops, and more privacy when using them (because of the device's portability). All respondents thought the library should continue the Chromebook program.

RESULTS

After several months of use, we are still very pleased with them. Students who need to speak on the phone while working online can do so in our meeting room without disturbing other patrons. We have used them for a teen tech program to provide enough stations for all participants.

A local volunteer held a well-attended basic Internet course for seniors using the Chromebooks. When a dead switch took down all but three of our main PCs, we were able to continue providing Internet access to patrons. Staff can also use them to assist in weeding since our ILS does not provide tablet options. We can pull up the report on the Chromebook and take that out with the cart to pull books.

The biggest staff-side positive is ease of management. Patrons can browse as a guest or log into their Google account to access Google docs or Gmail. If we have any issues with a device, we perform a "powerwash" that restores the Chromebook to its original settings with a simple keystroke combination.

CONCLUSION

There are more advanced management options available for larger institutions, but for the number of machines we have and the resources we have available, this setup works very well. The major drawback not mentioned in responses to the survey (because we alert patrons to it before they check out the device) is that patrons cannot currently print from them.

Our ILS does not work with Chromebooks, so we cannot implement print management on them at this time. We may explore this option in the future, but for now, we are happy to have found a simple, manageable way to provide better service to our patrons.

Winston Country Libraries and the 2014 Mississippi Tornado Outbreak

*Beth Edwards
Branch Manager
Winston County Library*

Winston County was devastated in the Monday, April 28, 2014 tornado. Ten people were killed, over 2,000 structures demolished or badly damaged and over 500 jobs temporarily lost. Fortunately, our library suffered no damage or water leaks, and was not without power for more than two hours.

We were not going to open on the Tuesday after the storm because two of our three full-time employees (we also have one part-time staff member) had multiple family members whose homes were destroyed or heavily damaged and had taken them into their homes and were helping them clean up and sift through rubble for anything to salvage.

However my Assistant Librarian, Venita Hollingsworth, and I happened to arrive at the library at the same time early

Tuesday morning to check on any damage to the library, and after a few minutes, people started showing up at the front door. They needed to charge cell phones and laptops, access our computers to let loved ones know they were okay, contact insurance companies, etc. We were in jeans and old t-shirts but decided we needed to open the library. They kept coming in all day. You see, the library is the only place in Winston County with access to free computers with internet. We also have free Wi-Fi.

We did not set up an organized help or relief center at our library because there are so many set up around the city and county. Our citizens have been amazing at pulling together to help everyone they possibly can – from individuals, local businesses, churches and civic groups. The Red Cross was here immediately and was soon followed by MEMA and FEMA, once Winston County was included in the list of areas declared a federal disaster area.

What we did is let people know through various local media outlets and a



Winston County Library staff member Denise Dickerson made over 1,000 copies of disaster relief and recovery materials for FEMA and MEMA to be distributed throughout the community and to city and county officials.



Two members of the Associated Press "camped out" at the Winston County Library for three days following the April 28, 2014 tornado, filing reports.

large sign on the street outside the library, that we were open and that we had internet. We let people know that we had Wi-Fi, fax, plug-ins to charge devices, copy machine, scanner- and of course our staff. They have been amazing. Helping people on computers who have never had to use them before, since many agencies require on-line filings or applications; helping make phone calls for displaced people; simply hugging and comforting people who had lost everything. Also, since the tornado, we (library staff) wear a different library t-shirt every day.

FEMA and MEMA are constantly in and out of the library using our computers, our Wi-Fi, scanner and meeting areas. The Associated Press "camped out" here for the three days following the storm to file reports. The SBA (Small Business Association) has been using our facility as well.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



Gwendolyn Coleman, Essie Jackson and Barbara Culberson used the Winston County Library public access computers to file for Small Business Administration assistance for their badly damaged church building, the Mt. Olive Bethel-Harmony Religious Education Ministry building, which was destroyed.



FEMA and MEMA officials set up temporary “offices” at the Winston County Library in order to file daily reports. (l-r) Hilda Kendrick (FEMA), Kenneth Windham – MEMA, Elizabeth Veselich – FEMA Corps, and Taylor Vandiver – FEMA Corps



Rita Harris and Glenn Price, of the hard-hit Center Ridge area of Winston County, use the free public access computers at the Winston County Library to file insurance papers.



Every one of these Winston County Library patrons are using the computers to file insurance or FEMA paperwork following the April 28, 2014 tornado.

Our Mid-Mississippi Regional Library System Headquarter staff has been so supportive throughout this ordeal. They have offered numerous times to come to Louisville to assist us. They continually called and checked on us to make sure we were okay. As a gesture of concern for all citizens within the Mid-Mississippi Regional Library System affected by the April 28, 2014 tornadoes, Richard Greene, MMRLS Executive Director made the decision to waive all fines on MMRLS materials lost, damaged or overdue because of the tornadoes.

It has been a terrible time for so many in our county – physically, mentally, emotionally and financially. But our library staff agrees that this has been one of the most rewarding experiences of our lives. After all, as librarians, our job is to help people. We love our library, our city and county and we love what we do.

This article includes additional contributions by Lisa M. Ramage, Branch Services Coordinator at the Mid-Mississippi Regional Library System, and Richard Greene, Executive Director of the Mid-Mississippi Regional Library System.



These incredible FEMA officials and workers used the Winston County Library almost every day since the April 28, 2014 tornado to file reports and hold training classes. From l-r they are Dorothy Wright (Jackson, MS), Catherine Boucher (Long Island, NY), Elizabeth Veselich (Los Angeles), Taylor Vandiver (Delaware), Jordan Douthitt (San Diego), Amanda Dolan (Rhode Island), Hilda Kendrick (Pratville, AL) and Bill Praust (Tuscon, AZ).

Created Equal: Continuing the Civil Rights Conversation at Mississippi State University

Hillary A. H. Richardson
Humanities Librarian
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Mississippi State University

INTRODUCTION

During the spring semester of 2014, the Mitchell Memorial Library, in conjunction with the African American Studies program at Mississippi State University, presented the film series *Created Equal: America's Civil Rights Struggle*, as a part of grant given by the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) in partnership with the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History ("Created Equal," 2014). Stephen Cunetto, Library Systems Administrator, and Dr. Stephen Middleton, Director of African American Studies, served as the principle investigators for the grant and the programs.

The programming of this series centered around three film screenings and three subsequent presentations by scholars, each of which addressed a civil rights issue and generated discussion on the history of equality in the United States. Each film is about creating opportunities for learning about the history of civil rights, but the heart of this series is about the need to create a deeper understanding that human rights and true equality are continuous pursuits.

The foundation of the series, according to the NEH website is to create a conversation about "what it takes to achieve real change in a democracy, what can be learned from the struggles of those who went before us, and how to connect . . . lives and experiences to this powerful history of heroism and struggle" ("About Created Equal," n.d.). As hosts to this series and librarians with a kindred purpose in extending the scholarly conversation, we used the screening and presentation events as starting points. Using our library's resources, outreach programs, and inter-departmental collaboration, the authors

developed an additional plan to sustain interest in civil rights scholarship at Mississippi State.

CONTEXT

This June will mark the 50th anniversary of Mississippi's Freedom Summer, a year that brought tremendous success in the form of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and deplorable violence—both individual and systematic—almost 100 years after the Civil War. Yet in 2014, we continue to discuss the expansive meaning of equal rights of American citizens, long after these iconic struggles. In 2014, we will have re-introduced voter identification laws in Mississippi and passed Senate Bill 2681, also known as the Mississippi Religious Freedom Restoration Act, which many critics, including colleges across the state, deem discriminatory.

For example, representatives from the University of Mississippi, Millsaps College, and Tougaloo college all recently issued formal statements denouncing the potential avenue for discrimination in SB 2681 (Wade, et. al, 2014, University of Mississippi Department of English, 2014). In an effort to demonstrate that the conversation about equal rights is far from over, we hope to provide fodder for the continued conversation about civil rights in the United States. The *Created Equal* film series was the impetus that revived these conversations in our library.

PROMOTING AND MARKETING MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY RESOURCES

To create publicity for the events and give attendees an information hub about the *Created Equal* program, the authors created a LibGuide, or an online research guide

(<http://guides.library.msstate.edu/createdequal>). This research guide included links to the films and resources from the NEH website, but it also highlighted resources from Mississippi University Libraries' circulating collections, special collections, and online resources. As Kumar and Farney note in "Administering LibGuides: Planning, implementation, and

Figure 1: An example of social media outreach.

beyond," (2013) LibGuides, just like any other resource that lives online, need to be marketed in more ways than one in order to let patrons know that it exists. In order to market our guide, we included its link in our press release about the event and in university-wide emails that announced the event. Additionally, the guide was mentioned at each film's discussion panel and posted on our social media platforms. Because of time restraints, we did not get a chance to advertise the LibGuide on the printed material (posters, bookmarks, and brochures) that was placed throughout our library. For future events, this would be a priority.

Furthermore, we noticed right away that each of our guest speakers mentioned additional resources during their talks, so we decided to update the LibGuide to reflect this ongoing conversation. For instance, Dr. Tiffany Patterson, Asso-

Figure 2: Another example of social media outreach.

ciate Professor of African American and Diaspora Studies at Vanderbilt University, spoke after the viewing of *The Abolitionists* and highlighted several different scholars and their works, which we then added, linking patrons to our circulating collection.

Steven Hobbs, a professor of Law at the University of Alabama, spoke about marriage and family law in the Civil Rights movement and the importance of storytelling after the film *The Loving Story*, so we added search results from his own publications on family law as well as national or-

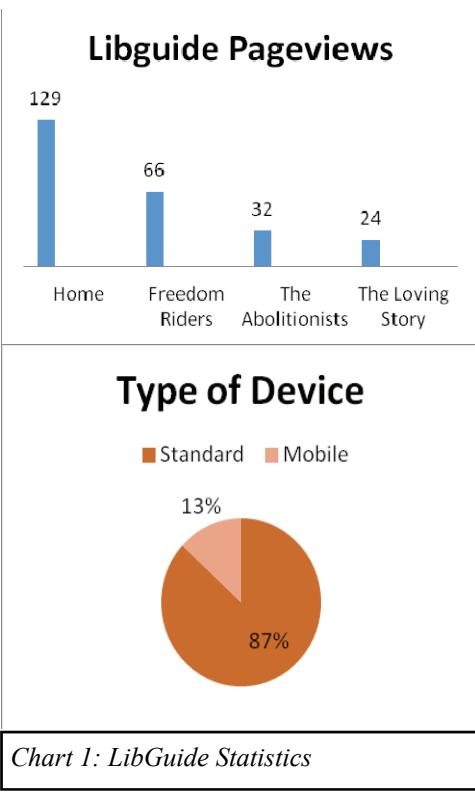


Chart 1: LibGuide Statistics

ganizations dedicated to storytelling. David Dennis, Hezekiah Watkins, and Hollis Watkins, who spoke about their experiences during the civil rights era and the work of the Freedom Riders, provided their own resources about Freedom Summer, other programs, and the importance of music during the protests, so we provided links to oral history archives and Freedom Summer anniversary events. We also recorded their discussions, including a portion where Hollis Watkins led the group in a protest song. This invaluable primary resource will be posted to our research guide and available in our digital collections.

In a study by Foster, Wilson, Al-lensworth, and Sands (2010), they noted an

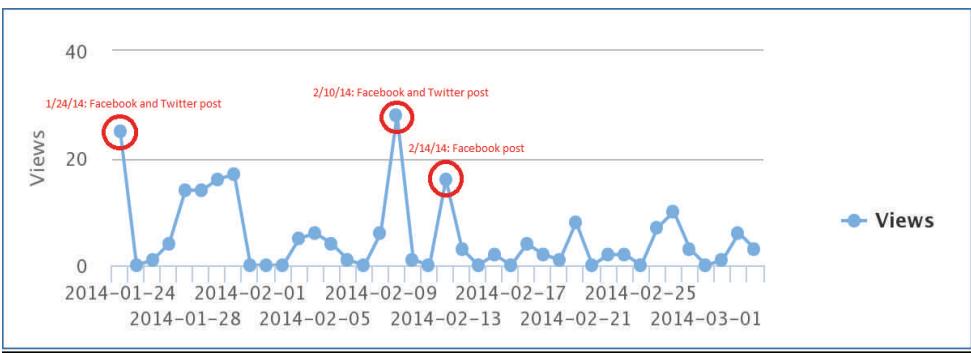


Chart 2: Circulation Statistics for Civil Rights Material

increase in usage when they marketed their guides in online platforms—notably email and social media. Our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/msulibrary) has more than 1,500 likes, and our Twitter account, [@msu_libraries](https://twitter.com/msu_libraries), has over 2,500 followers, so social media outreach was and continues to be one of the main ways we interact with MSU patrons. So naturally, a large part of our outreach for *Created Equal* included using social media. We promoted the series as a whole, and we posted about each event separately, with each post getting hundreds of views, and several tweets getting interactions through replies, retweets, and favorites (See Figures 1 and 2). While not all of the posts included the links to the LibGuide, we also noticed a significant increase in usage on the days where we included the link.

ASSESSMENT

In order to gauge the success of these outreach efforts, we used the number of clicks on our LibGuide, the circulation statistics of the book resources in our LibGuide, social media views and interactions, and the comments on each event that were gathered from the NEH evaluations. In gathering this data, we learned which of our efforts were most successful, where our users were going to find information about *Created Equal*, and what they found most meaningful.

Not surprisingly, the highest usage of our LibGuide fell between January 24th, when the guide was created, and March 5th, the day after the last event in the series. As of May 14, the LibGuide had a total of 251 page views, with the home page receiving the most at 129 views, and the Freedom Riders page receiving the second highest at 66 views. We also learned that a small but significant portion of

these views were accessed via mobile device.

Although we were unable to correlate the number of times an item circulated to the collection links in our research guide, our measurement of circulation statistics showed a significant interest in civil rights literature especially the books we listed, which supports further collection development in this subject area. Our statistics showed that our 23 featured books were checked out a total of 141 times. The 14 books listed under *The Abolitionists* page had the highest amount of circulation at 77 checkouts. We also featured a few resources that were in our Special Collections Department. While there are no circulation statistics on these, we thought it was important to highlight the resources in this often overlooked treasury.

Our assessment indicated that the most widely noticed form of outreach came out of our social media posts. Our promotion of the events, the LibGuide, and the resources were most impacted on the days that we posted about the event. Within Facebook, we posted 8 times in all, generating a total of 989 views and 52 interactions through comments, likes, and shares. Of the 30 tweets related to the event, 10 were favorited or re-tweeted. One of the more notable interactions came from the National Endowment for the Humanities' Twitter account. On days that we posted information with a link to the Lib-

Circulation Statistics (Total)

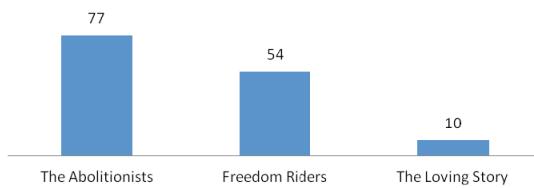


Chart 3: Number of LibGuide views that correspond with posted links to social media

Agreed with below statement (n=67)		
	n	%
This program made me want to learn more about the subject	64	95.52%
The experience I had was engaging	63	94.03%
The experience I had was worthwhile	64	95.52%
I learned something new and valuable	65	97.01%
Having participated in this program, I plan to explore this subject further	62	92.54%

Table 1: Responses to NEH Created Equal Surveys

Guide, usage statistics increased dramatically.

Finally, we looked at the evaluations from the National Endowment of the Humanities that came with each film which provided meaningful insights on what the attendees valued from each event. An overwhelming majority of the survey questions were positive, but the comments provided us with personal reactions like, “the personal narratives were riveting!” Other standout comments included “[S]eeing people involved [with] the movement made it seem more real to me,” and “My favorite portion of the event was the actual lecture. I was fascinated by [t]he speaker and truly inspired to read more and dig deeper in myself to form opinions,” and “This was the single most intellectual, inspiration[al] thing that the University, which I love, has ever presented to me. Thank you, White Male, Senior.”

FUTURE PLANS FOR COLLABORATION

Because of the richness in our resources and the positive feedback from those that attended, we used this event series as an opportunity to create other avenues to continue the discussion on civil rights in the United States. In the immediate future, we plan to use the 50th anniversary of the Mississippi Freedom Summer (June of 2014) to promote civil rights research by highlighting more of our collections and using social media to post about these events. Reeb and Gibbons (2004) suggest that librarians “provide access to the subject guides at a course-specific level” for better usage and relevancy (p. 128). So in addition to our marketing the LibGuide and other library resources, we decided to reach out directly to MSU’s African American Studies Department

rector, Dr. Stephen Middleton. Our discussion proved there to be a need for better integration of library resources in conjunction with classes offered as a part of the African American Studies curriculum.

Moving forward, we plan to partner with instructors of African American Studies classes to provide them with course-integrated resources that stem from our *Created Equal* guide, specifically the resources with a civil rights focus. Dr. Middleton also expressed a need for a singular research portal where scholars of African American Studies, whether they are affiliated with MSU or not, can access library resources. True to the mission of the NEH’s *Created Equal* initiative, we hope that the discussion of equality in the United States does not end with the events we hosted. Through our resources and our outreach efforts, we plan to connect researchers to the lives and works of those who strived (and continue to strive) for equal rights.

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News Briefs

Tina Harry

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

PULITZER PRIZE WINNING BIOGRAPHER DIGS INTO GRANT COLLECTION FOR FORTHCOMING BOOK

Last January, bestselling biographer and Pulitzer Prize winner Ron Chernow spent a week in the Ulysses S. Grant Presidential Library researching his forthcoming book. Chernow, who has previously written about historical giants such as John D. Rockefeller, George Washington, and Alexander Hamilton, has spent the last two and a half years delving into the life of another man who helped change the course of American history – Ulysses S. Grant.

The idea came to him in 2010, shortly after finishing his Pulitzer Prize winning biography on George Washington. Chernow knew that he wanted to begin a new project but felt that there were not many figures of comparable stature to Washington. Grant was one. Both men had been war heroes and presidents in the two most defining eras in American history: the Revolutionary War and the Civil War. Chernow decided that Grant would be his new subject.

Between his “strong and often overbearing father” and his “equally difficult father-in-law,” Grant and his wife, Julia, faced the difficulty of feuding families, a fact that is often overlooked in portraits of the general and president, Chernow said. “In a way, the Civil War was already being fought out before 1861 in the Grant family – between the Yankee family from Ohio and the Southern family from Missouri.”

Chernow explained his philosophy of biography this way: “I try to put at the center of the book a psychological portrait of the character, and I also try to synthesize both the public and the private lives. The material at the Grant Library is invaluable. It will allow me to present a rounded portrait of this person that I hope

will make him seem very real on the page.” Until his visit to the Grant Library, Chernow immersed himself in secondary-source research to give himself a broad background. He spent a three-month hiatus after ankle surgery reading the Civil War trilogies of Shelby Foote and Bruce Catton and has since read nearly eighty books about Grant, the Civil War and Reconstruction. He then spent 2013 carefully perusing all 32 volumes of *The Papers of Ulysses S. Grant*.

During his week at the Grant Library, Chernow worked his way through Series 2 of the unpublished Grant material. The 32 published volumes represent only 20% of the materials in the Grant Library, so he believes having access to the unpublished material will give him a wealth of new information. “I feel lucky to be the beneficiary of [former Executive Director John Y.] Simon’s work,” he said, “And the staff at the Grant Library rolled out the red carpet for me. The Grant Library is an absolute jewel. I’m going to be back many times.”

Dr. John Marszalek, Executive Director of the Grant Library, praised Chernow’s previous work and his plans for his Grant biography. “Ron Chernow is one of the nation’s leading biographers, and his praise of our Grant collection is most meaningful. I can’t wait to read his completed book.”



Photograph by Randall McMillen

Ron Chernow spent a week in the Ulysses S. Grant Presidential Library researching his forthcoming book.

Submitted by

Angela M. Patton

Library Associate

Mississippi State University Libraries

MSU LIBRARIES’ “ECHOES” HONORED WITH MHS HILLIARD ORAL HISTORY AWARD

On March 8, the MSU Libraries was honored with the Elbert T. Hilliard Oral History Award at the Mississippi Historical Society’s annual Awards Brunch in Jackson for the “Echoes of Lloyd-Ricks-Watson” oral history project.

The “Echoes of Lloyd-Ricks-Watson” oral history project contains interviews with former occupants or those with relationships to the Lloyd-Ricks-Watson building and records stories concerning their experiences and the personalities that occupied the building from its original opening in 1929 through its current remodeling and renaming in October 23, 2010.

Ryan Semmes, Interim/Internal Coordinator of the Congressional and Political Research Center, said, “We are very pleased that MHS has honored us with the Hilliard award. This project is unique among oral history projects in that it does not solely seek to document the history of individuals, but also the building itself and its changes. We worked with the faculty, staff, and students, folks who lived in and interacted with the building and each other.”

The award honors Elbert R. Hilliard, who served as director of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History for thirty-one years, and is awarded to the most outstanding oral history project exemplifying a distinguished collection, high-quality preservation, and proper use of oral history. Frances Coleman, Dean of Libraries, accepted the award during the presentation in Jackson, MS and noted that she was “honored to accept this award on behalf of the Mississippi State University Libraries. These oral histories not only encompass the history of the building and the experiences of the individuals involved, it enhances the history of the University and the state while at the same time

providing additional research opportunities for students and researchers." She added "The project was successful due to the excellent work and expertise of many Library faculty and staff."

The "Echoes of Lloyd-Ricks-Watson" project can be viewed and explored online at <http://library.msstate.edu/echoes>

For more information on Mississippi State University Libraries, please visit <http://library.msstate.edu>.

For information on the Mississippi Historical Society and its awards, please visit <http://mdah.state.ms.us/new/government/mississippi-historical-society/>.

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

ARCHIVES DIVISION OF ROWLAND MEDICAL LIBRARY RECEIVES AWARD

Connie Machado, Associate Director, has received an award on behalf of the Archives division of Rowland Medical Library/UMMC. The 2014 NN/LM Express Digitization and Conservation Award will be used to purchase necessary equipment for the evaluation of over 300 16mm surgical films, many from Dr. James D. Hardy.

Dr. Hardy first transplanted a chimpanzee heart into a human and also performed early lung transplants and adrenal gland surgeries. The equipment purchased will include hand rewinds, splicing equipment, and a light table, along with archival film cases and cores to properly evaluate and store the films that are in the process of being considered for preservation. Films must be evaluated for content, chemical instability, decomposition, shrinkage, splices and value for preservation potential.

*Submitted by
Lauren M. Young
Head, Serials & Electronic Resources
Rowland Medical Library*

COLLABORATIVE LEARNING CENTER NOW OPEN AT ROWLAND MEDICAL LIBRARY

Rowland Medical Library at the University of Mississippi Medical Center recently opened the Collaborative Learning Center (CLC). Occupying space that previously held a computer lab, the CLC features seven flat screen monitors and MediaScape furniture including three collaborative tables, movable chairs, desks and booths.

The CLC, designed to support inter-professional and collaborative learning, opened in December 2013. It is open to students and faculty of all campus schools during library operating hours. Susan Clark, Connie Machado and Lauren Young presented a poster about the project at the 2014 Medical Library Association annual meeting in Chicago.

*Submitted by
Lauren M. Young
Head, Serials & Electronic Resources
Rowland Medical Library*

BRYANT SPEAKS AT TASTERS' LUNCHEON

Hundreds of people showed their support to the Winona-Montgomery County Library, a branch of the Mid-Mississippi Regional Library System, in honor of National Library Week. The annual Tasters' Luncheon was held Thursday, April 24, 2014, and Mississippi First Lady Deborah Bryant was the event's keynote speaker. Bryant, who started her "Read Across Mississippi Initiative," read to students at Winona Elementary School prior to the Tasters' Luncheon.

"Being First Lady is a life changing experience," Bryant said. "I've met the most incredible people."

Bryant also spoke of her H.O.M.E. initiative, her plan named for the four issues she is focusing on during her time as First Lady: Healthcare, Outdoors, Mansion, and Education.

"In healthcare, I have a passion for disabilities," Bryant said. "We have many children with mental illnesses, and there is a problem with teen pregnancy." Bryant added that since her husband, Phil Bryant, took over as governor, there has been a 10 percent drop in the teen pregnancy rate.

The "O" and "M" is for her love of the outdoors and what she calls "great state parks" and the preservation of the Governor's Mansion.

With "E" Bryant is a firm believer of a strong education system in Mississippi and lends her time and effort to supporting schools throughout the state.

To accommodate the large number attending, the luncheon was held at the Moore Memorial Methodist Church Family Life Center with dozens of southern dishes featured on the buffet. Sponsored by the Friends of the Library, the luncheon featured dishes prepared by Friends' members, and the collection of recipes served at the event was given to each person in attendance.



Deborah Bryant (pictured with Senator Lydia Chassaniol, R-Winona) was the keynote speaker at the Winona-Montgomery County Public Library Tasters' Luncheon on Thursday, April 24, 2014.

*Article and photograph by Reggie Ross,
The Winona Times. Reprinted with permission.*

*Submitted by
Lisa M. Ramage
Branch Services Coordinator
Mid-Mississippi Regional Library System*

DEEPLY ROOTED PROJECT GROWS OUT OF CHARM COLLECTION AT MSU LIBRARIES

The Association of Southeastern Research Libraries (ASERL) announces the development of "Deeply Rooted," a new, shared digital collection focusing on the rich agricultural and rural histories of its member institutions. This project builds on the work of Mississippi State University Libraries' Consortium for the History of Agriculture and Rural Mississippi (CHARM), especially with regard to online digital content and the subjects of agricultural and rural history.

"ASERL libraries have amazingly deep, fascinating collections related to the rural history of the South and our country

as a whole," commented Thomas McNally, ASERL's President and Dean of Libraries at the University of South Carolina. "We are excited we can combine our strengths to deliver unique, unparalleled content to historians and students across country and the world via our ASERL partnerships." As with the Civil War project, ASERL seeks to enable broad participation of member institutions in the "Deeply Rooted" collection. This collection will contain content that describes economic, technologic, and social factors significant to the development of agricultural practices, crops, technology, and agrarian life in the regions of the contributing institutions.

The Digital Public Library of America (DPLA) will serve as the main portal for this Deeply Rooted collection, which is projected to be online by the end of 2014. Mississippi State University Libraries will provide leadership on the steering committee, harvest and normalize the metadata and serving as a liaison to DPLA for this effort.

"We are thrilled that the Deeply Rooted project is underway and will provide researchers with access to these primary resources. Making them available through the DPLA will make the resources more discoverable to researchers around the world," said Frances Coleman, Dean of MSU Libraries.

This will be the second shared digital collection created under the ASERL umbrella. In 2011, ASERL launched American-south.org, an online portal to a shared digital collection of Civil War Era content. This collection contains more than 10,000 items from more than 30 libraries and has attracted more than 55,000 visitors since its launch.

For more information on the project contact John Burger, ASERL Executive Director (jburger@aserl.org); Frances Coleman, Dean of Libraries, Mississippi State University; Stephen Cunetto, Administrator of Systems, Mississippi State University Libraries.

About ASERL:

For more than 50 years, the Association of Southeastern Research Libraries has brought together leaders from research, federal, and state libraries in the region to foster a high standard of library excellence through inter-institutional resource sharing and other collaborative efforts. Today,

ASERL is the largest regional research library consortium in the United States. By working together, ASERL members continue to provide and maintain top quality resources and services for the students, faculty, and citizens of their respective communities. For more information on ASERL, please visit <http://www.aserl.org/>

About the MSU Libraries:

Mississippi State University Libraries is a premier research library providing its communities of users an ongoing, creative, technologically advanced library program that provides new and emerging technologies; enhances and inspires teaching, research, and service of the highest caliber in an environment of free and open inquiry and with a commitment to excellence. For more information about MSU Libraries, please visit <http://library.msstate.edu/>

Submitted by

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

People in the News

Tina Harry

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

The Board of Trustees of First Regional Library has announced the appointment of **Ed Hughes** as the new Director.

Mr. Hughes has a Bachelor of Arts and a Masters in Library Science, both from the University of Wisconsin. In his 30-plus career as a librarian Ed has worked for both academic and public libraries in areas he calls “cowboy country” including Idaho, Wyoming, Nebraska, and South Dakota. He comes to Mississippi from Wisconsin, where he has been serving as director of the Rhinelander District Library since 2008.



His other positions during his career include Circulation-Technical Services Supervisor at the Rapid City Public Library where he assisted with the opening of a new branch and an expansion to the main library. He was also the library's network contact with overall responsibility for migration to a new integrated library system. Ed's other library experience includes stints in Acquisitions at the University of Wisconsin and as Head of Cataloging at the College of Southern Idaho Library.

The nationwide search for the Director of First Regional Library yielded applicants from all over the country. “Ed’s impressive experience and passion for public libraries served him well in our inter-

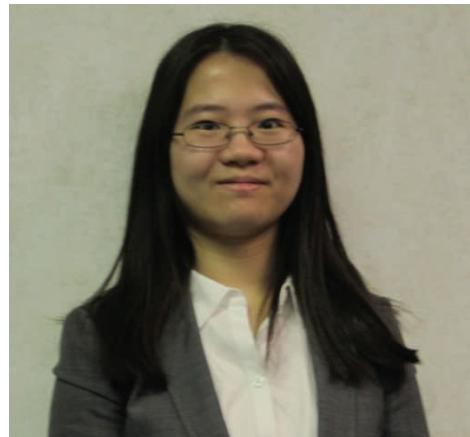
view process,” said Evelyn Hubbard, Board of Trustees President. “We are confident that in Ed Hughes we have found the ideal librarian to lead First Regional Library into the future.”

Ed follows Catherine Nathan, who retired as Director in October 2013, and Judy Card, who has been serving as Interim Director. He begins his FRL career on June 2nd.

The University of Southern Mississippi Libraries staff welcomes its newest catalog librarian, **Xiaojie Duan**.

She began work in the bibliographic services department at Southern Miss in March of 2014. “This is my first tenure-track position, and it is related to cataloging and classification, an area I love the most and want to devote my career to. I catalogue purchased books, and later I will oversee the digital collection projects and other special collection cataloging programs,” Duan said.

“University Libraries at Southern Miss is proud to have Xiaojie Duan on board, starting her professional career as an academic librarian,” said Linda Ginn, a catalog librarian. “We feel certain she will become an outstanding cataloger and will contribute much to librarianship in Mississippi and beyond in coming years.”



Duan received her bachelor's degree in Italian Language at the Sichuan International Studies University in China

in 2011. In 2013, she completed her master's degree in Library and Information Science from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (UWM).

Her career in cataloging began in the Milwaukee Public Library during her last semester at UWM. There she cataloged maps for the humanities collections, including maps in Chinese, French, German and Spanish.

Before working in the University Libraries at Southern Miss, Duan worked for the Access and Management Department of the Main Library of The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC), where she cataloged Chinese materials, which are in different formats and some of them can be dated back to 18th century.

After twenty years at Hinds Community College, **Margaret Jane Stauble** will be retiring June 30, 2014. She served the college as Technical Services Librarian, Administrative Librarian for the Vicksburg Branch, and finally as the Public Services Librarian at the Raymond Campus.



After 28 years of service, **Cathy Kanady** has retired as Assistant Director in charge of Technology and Branch Operations for the Northeast Regional Library headquartered in Corinth.

Cathy first began her library career working as the Assistant Librarian at the Gulf Coast Research Laboratory in Ocean Springs before becoming the Librarian at the Ocean Springs Public Library for 12 1/2 years. She also worked as the Assistant

Director of the Hancock County Library System for 2 years. Her plans for the near future include moving to and settling back in Ocean Springs, traveling, and doing volunteer work with animal shelters.

*Photograph by Jebb Johnston,
Daily Corinthian
Used with permission*

tions in one of the southeastern states. Recipients of the grant will share information on agricultural health resources with their institutions and communities.

Dee Hare has been selected as the new Assistant Director for NERL. She assumed her role on May 1, 2014. She is formerly the Librarian at the George E. Allen Library in Booneville, where she had worked for the last 15 years. Dee is currently enrolled at the University of Southern Mississippi in pursuit of a Master's degree in Library and Information Science.



Melissa Wright, MLIS, PhD, reference and instructional services librarian at Rowland Medical Library, received a grant to attend in a course in agricultural medicine (Agricultural Medicine: Occupational and Environmental Health for Rural Health Professionals) offered by the North Carolina Agromedicine Institute. The course addressed multiple areas of rural medicine such as pesticide exposure, farm injuries, and farm equipment safety and met face-to-face twice in Greenville, North Carolina, with additional class sessions held online.

The grant was funded through a training award from the National Network of Libraries of Medicine, Southeastern/Atlantic Region and was available to four librarians who serve agricultural popula-

Morley, Gabriel. *Blame It on the Black Star*. Tylertown, MS: Hippy Book Publishers, 2012. 145 pp. \$8.99. (paperback)

Mississippi librarian, and former newspaper reporter, Gabriel Morley has crafted a novel about the coming of age of a young boy in the wake of his brother's military death. This novel is for young adults, and its strength includes some vividly-written letters from the hero's beloved older brother, Corey, but it is hampered by a simplistic narrative tone that keeps the central story from being as realistic and compelling as it could be. *Blame It on the Black Star* is a simpler read than it might have been but suggests a more devastating story behind its basic façade.

Westbrook "West" Washington is fourteen years old. He has become the ineffectual custodian of Ray Ray, his brother's best friend. Corey has followed Ray Ray's father into the Mississippi National Guard, the 155th infantry division, and is serving in Iraq. West is envious of his brother's new adventure at first, and a little resentful at being left in charge of Ray Ray. He knows that the young man's anger and violent impulses should not be the responsibility of a much younger boy.

With Corey's first letter, however, it becomes clear that this will be no paid holiday. The letters are the best part of the book, showing the confusion and contemplation that being on a battlefield can bring out in a person, and they seem authentic in their anguish and loneliness. With much of the book, however, Morley has a difficult time striking a tone, using vocabulary that sounds right for the voices of his young characters while also communicating the bigger issues he is interested in exploring.

Corey is killed in an accident similar to those he has described in his letters, and West and Ray Ray embark on a spree to gather all the American flags in town and burn them in one huge protest. Their sense of frustration and pain at another unnecessary death is well realized, though Morley might have been able to convey an even greater feeling of loss if West's young voice sounded more solidly authentic.

Nevertheless, *Blame It on the Black Star* is a noble effort that provides a readable story about an important issue, war. As such, the book deserves inclusion into public libraries, or libraries with young adult collections or collections by Mississippi authors.

William L. Bahr
Library Director
Marks-Quitman County Library

Hussey, Elaine. *The Oleander Sisters*. Ontario, Canada: Harlequin MIRA, 2014. 338 pp. \$14.95 (paperback)

Elaine Hussey's *The Oleander Sisters* tells the story of Blake family. Set in 1969 in Biloxi, Mississippi, the story focuses on the joys and challenges faced by the family. Sweet Mama runs a local restaurant famous for its "Amen cobbler." The beginning of the book focuses on the impending marriage of Emily to a man of questionable integrity and Jim's return from the Vietnam War as a changed man. Each person in the family faces changes that push them out of their comfort zones. With Hurricane Camille on the horizon, the Blakes come to terms with what it means to be true to yourself and acknowledge the importance of family.

The book is written from the perspective of three of the Blake women. This approach provides insight into the issues that face each of them and how they come out on the other side. Jim's perspective on reentering civilian life would have been an interesting addition, but at 338 pages, it would have dramatically lengthened the book. The book started off a little clunky, but evolved into a delightful read.

The Oleander Sisters is recommended for public libraries and academic libraries with a Mississippi author collection.

Jennifer Brannock

*Curator, Rare Books & Mississippiana
University of Southern Mississippi*

Baker, David, Dick Hill, Mem Leake, Bill Lyle, Julian Riley and Boyd Yarbrough.
Tupelo (Images of America Series.) Charleston, SC: Arcadia Publishing, 2013. 127 pp.
\$21.99 (paperback)

Tupelo is the fruit of painstaking efforts of six local historians including David Baker from Lee County. This book is noticeable in its distinction of recounting history with photos. The book contains more than 150 historic photos which show the development and rise of a city – Tupelo, Mississippi.

The book is divided into 3 chapters, namely “The Village”, “The Town” and “The City”, which present Tupelo in different historical stages. Photographs in the book cover a time span of over 100 years (1862 to 1975), ranging from the beginning of the American Civil War to the end of the Vietnam War. These photographs visually exhibit the process of how Tupelo gradually developed from a small hamlet into a sizable town and finally became a well-developed city.

Although the book deals with the history of Tupelo in wartime, its tone is calm and tranquil and explains the historical themes in a peaceful way. The book is rich in photos that reflect the developments of Tupelo in different fields, including economics, politics, culture, education, jobs. These black-and-white photos exhibit this area’s changes over a century: mud roads become boardwalks which transition to cement roads; from the establishment of the first Christian Church to the opening of the first hotel, shop, bank and car dealership; and from the building of a private and public school to the thriving and prosperous schools they became. The smiling faces of businessmen, the tears of people hugging soldiers home from a long journey, and the enthusiasm of people in a parade are all recorded in the photos, telling the reader a story of development of a small village 150 years ago and the harmonious coexistence between the people and their town.

The book has also included some photos of important historical events and celebrities. These historical events and activities include: the signature of TVA Act (Tennessee Valley Authority Act) by Roosevelt, the severe tornado disaster in Tupelo in 1936, and the birth and early years of Elvis Aaron Presley and his concert in Tupelo after making a name for himself. Since the pictures recorded the history of Tupelo as well, we can also see from those photos the development process of Tupelo (the first city signing TVA), the effects of 1936 tornado on it and the efforts taken to rebuild the city, and the contributions of its resident-Elvis Presley in American music history. Thanks to these photos, the vivid historical stories are memorable.

This book is a must-have for those who are interested in the history of Tupelo, but also for those who would like to recall history through photos, or for those who are fond of books dealing with history. This book is also recommended to academic and public libraries, or those libraries that collect Mississippi or Southern history.

Xiaojie Duan
Catalog Librarian
The University of Southern Mississippi

McAfee, Stephanie. *Down and Out in Bugtussle*. New York, NY: New American Library, 2013.
356 pp. \$15.00 (paperback)

The saga of Graciela ‘Ace’ Jones continues in *Down and Out in Bugtussle*, the third installment of the Mad Fat Girl Series by Mississippi author, Stephanie McAfee. Ace discovered her “ideal” life in Florida was wholly unfulfilling and returns to live in her Gramma Jones’ house in Bugtussle, Mississippi. Struggling to remold her life and dreams, Ace aims to unseat her replacement, Bugtussle High Schools’ new art teacher, while her old friends, Chloe and Lilly, try to help Ace’s personal life by setting Ace up on one unwanted blind date after another.

There is plenty going on in the story without the mystery of Gramma Jones’ secret, which turns out not to be as titillating as one might hope. Yet, it leads to Ace’s interactions with Gramma Jones’ friends and access to the invitation-only Bugtussle Garden Club, both of which are entertaining to say the least.

The new friendship between Ace and Stacey is endearing and will surely warrant some laughter. From the 1980s make-overs to all-nighters attending rock concerts, Stacey provides a blast from the past, anchors Ace in the present and distracts her from her own dejection.

The novel holds up on its own, even without the two previous installments in the series. However, if you are looking for a tightly wrapped up, happily ever after ending, this isn’t it. Like reality, the story goes on. For McAfee enthusiasts, hopefully this will mean a fourth book on the horizon.

This novel is appropriate for public libraries and other libraries with popular reading collections for adults.

Elizabeth La Beaud
Digital Lab Manager
The University of Southern Mississippi

Finnegan, Terence. *A Deed So Accursed: Lynching in Mississippi and South Carolina, 1881-1940*. Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 2013. 231 pages. \$39.50 (hardcover).

As part of the *American South Series* by the University of Virginia Press, Terence Finnegan chronicles the lawless and unrelenting violence that occurred in Mississippi and South Carolina during the “Lynching Era,” or the decades between Reconstruction and the years leading up to the Civil Rights Era, when an anti-lynching bill failed to pass in Congress. Finnegan uniquely deconstructs the violence between the black and white races using quantitative data, showing the regions in which the most violence occurred, the numbers of mob participants, the alleged crimes that “justified” lynchings, and the demographics of the lynching victims. These numbers tell the story of local terrorism that gave Mississippi, in particular, the historically turbulent and horrifying past that occasionally surfaces today.

Finnegan tells a statistical story, but he also uses archives of Southern newspapers to piece together personal stories of the biased attitudes and the vitriol in certain white newspapers and the anger and determination in anti-supremacy papers. These first-hand accounts show how violent racism could become a ritualistic and borderline-sociopathic celebration, where towns gathered to view a spectacle of torture, followed by a celebratory picnic or a baseball game. Lynchings were not just about martial punishment or retribution for wrongdoings, Finnegan repeats, but unbridled ways to politically and systematically disenfranchise an entire portion of the population.

While this subject does merit shock and outrage, as Finnegan implies with his own choice of words, there are moments when his language is a bit loose or inconsistent with the story he tells. For example, the author provides ample footnotes for each account, but often interjects with his own generalizations, saying that a lynch mob “included practically the entire white male population” of a certain town (p. 127). Modern readers will agree that lynching was a horrendous exercise of white supremacy in the South, but they will also see this kind of language as the author’s overreaching assumptions. Overall, the primary accounts, the figures, and the details with which Finnegan describes horrible acts of injustice draw a striking picture that a student of Southern history and culture would benefit from reading. This volume would be appropriate for an academic or public library, and it would be a great addition to those collecting the other volumes in the *American South Series*.

Hillary A. H. Richardson

*Humanities Librarian / Service-Learning Librarian / Honors College Librarian
Mississippi State University*