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On the cover: *Jackson Falls* by Kara Roberts, Starkville Public Library  
Jackson Falls is located on the Duck River on the Natchez Trace near Hickman, Tenn.

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# President's Page

At our last meeting, the Executive Board and Section and Roundtable Chairs, as well as some committee members toured the Westin, the site of the upcoming Annual Conference. Mary Beth Applin, Vice President, and her team have been very hard at work putting together this conference.

We have had changes in our leadership makeup this quarter, as Sheila Cork retired, and Stephen Parks and Joyce Shaw are now co-chairs of the Special Libraries Section.

As mentioned in my last column, the Executive Board voted to propose to the general membership a change in the handbook language to clarify eligibility for nominations for offices. This language has gone out via the MLA list and will be voted on at our October General Meeting, so be sure to check your email for that information.

The Board is always looking for ways to reach new members and discussed the possibility of adding institutional memberships to our options. In order to research how this might work, the Board formed an ad hoc committee to investigate the potential for adding this to our current membership types.

On the advocacy front, MLA has joined ALA and state associations across the country in drafting a letter opposing the e-book embargo announced by Macmillan Publishing in July. This new policy, which is set to begin November 1 of this year, limits public libraries to one copy of popular titles until after an eight-week embargo period. As librarians, we want to ensure all patrons can find the materials they need and feel



that limiting public libraries to purchasing one copy of popular titles until after an eight-week embargo period passes unnecessarily limits access.

The Outreach Committee hosted a tent at the Mississippi Book Festival August 18 manned by various member volunteers and by our dedicated MLA Administrator, Paula Bass. It was hot, but we saw a large crowd of book lovers during the festival. We met several potential new members and even some potential new librarians.

By now you will have received information about the Annual Conference October 22-25 at the Westin in Jackson. Make your plans now to attend and enjoy a variety of great programming for all types of librarians. The Pre-Conference sponsored by the Public Library Section with author Ryan Dowd also promises to be excellent. School Library Section chair, Jeannette Whisenton, announced that the President-Elect of the American Association of School Librarians will join us at Conference.

The Scholarship Committee and the Black Caucus are working hard on the Silent Auction to support the Peggy May and Virgia Brocks-Shedd

Scholarships. Don't forget to stop by and help support these great causes. In addition, the President's Bash supports these opportunities.

Whatever type of library you represent, there will be opportunities for learning and celebration of library work and accomplishments

at MLA, so we hope to see you there.

# A Snapshot of Programming at Public Library Websites in Mississippi

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## ABSTRACT

As the "Third Place" in a person's life, public libraries are tasked to uphold the Library Bill of Rights established by the American Library Association. One of the ways to provide the "Third Place" is for public libraries to offer programming. The ideal programming should be offered to all groups and on a variety of subjects. The question is how well Mississippi public libraries do in providing programming for many people on many subjects.

The purpose of this article is to analyze the scope and variety of programs offered in Mississippi public library and included on their websites. This research analyzes the types and regularity of programs offered at Mississippi public libraries. Data were collected by viewing each public library system website and analyzing the data. Further research is recommended to include how social media is being used by public libraries to promote programs. Also, a study could be done to look at how effective social media is in the marketing of programs.

## INTRODUCTION

Sociologist Ray Oldenburg (1989) created the concept of a third place. The "third place" is a "community meeting space such as cafes, pubs and village halls which are neither domestic nor workspace (Oxford, 2018). Public libraries are considered the "third place" in a person's life with home and work being the first and second. As the "Third Place", public libraries are tasked to uphold the Library Bill of Rights established by the American Library Association. The first right is stated as "Books and other library resources should be provided for the interest, information, and enlightenment of all people of the community the library serves. Materials should not be excluded because of the origin, background, or views of those contributing to their creation" (ALA, 2007, para 2). One of the ways to provide the "Third Place" is for public libraries to offer programming.

Today people are questioning the relevance of public libraries in the on-the-go lives of Americans. The American Library Association (ALA) seeks to address this question, 'Why do we need public libraries?'. Public libraries are the hub of their community. Libraries provide education and entertainment. They offer an archive for local history of

the community. Libraries offer special collections of cooking implements and automotive tools (ALA, 2007). Libraries are more than a collection of books or tools. Through programs, public libraries offer the public exposure to the arts, education, career planning, government programs, films, early learning for children, and multigenerational family programs (Edwards et al., 2013).

The purpose of this study is to assess the scope and variability of programs offered by public libraries in Mississippi and included on their websites. There are four question this study investigates; 1) Which age ranges do programs of the libraries in this study target? 2) What types of programs are offered for different age ranges? 3) How frequently are programs held off-site versus onsite? And when held offsite, where? and 4) How many programs are recurring versus one-time events? This study is restricted to the websites for public libraries in Mississippi. The study does not consider other sources of promoting library programs such as flyers and posters, social media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram) or email and mailed newsletters. It is assumed that the websites for the public libraries in Mississippi are accurate and up to date. It is also

assumed that the information offered about their programs are a reasonably accurate representation of the programs offered and the ages those programs are intended.

There have been studies on website content analysis focusing on links and placements. Some research has focused on readers' advisory or entrepreneur resources. Other papers have been written concerning early literacy or e-government information on library websites. This study builds upon a similar, previous study by Beckett-Willis (2018) that examined teen programming in Mississippi public libraries, but it extends the research to examine programming in general as listed on the libraries' websites. The results of this research may be used by library staff and librarians to compare what public libraries in the state are offering as programs or may be used to increase or modify existing programs at public libraries.

## LITERATURE REVIEW

Burke and Strothmann's (2015) study on adult readers' advisory (RA) analyzed the websites of public libraries to see if online RA was being used. The authors examined a random sample of 369 U.S. public libraries' websites and used a content analysis checklist to look for RA elements on the library websites. The instances of RAs in the study were either completely online or an "out-reach element for in-person activities" (p 135). Burke and Strothmann concluded that only a minority of libraries offer a strong RA presence on their websites, and most libraries offer readers' advisory information to promote in-person instruction such as book clubs (p 141).

The purpose of Beckett-Willis' 2018 research was to use webometrics or website content analysis to examine Mississippi public library websites to determine how teen programming was marketed. The findings of her research showed 69 percent of public library system websites did not promote teen programs. Consequently, her study shows that public library websites (31%) that did promote teen programming provided information on library home pages, library calendars and/or dedicated web pages for teens (Beckett-Willis, p. 71). Beckett-Willis concluded her study with the suggestion that further research should be done to explore how teen library programs are promoted using social media as well as the creation of teen pages for public library websites (Beckett-Willis, p. 72).

In their research, Velasquez and Evans (2018) investigated the existence of "electronic branches" in 1,517 public libraries in Australia, Canada, and the United States in a four-year quantitative study. The analysis looked for issues such as the availability of online resources, staff available to answer user questions, and accessibility of the website. The authors searched for 18 criteria on the public library websites and documented results using a spreadsheet. The authors concluded that the websites of public libraries in Canada and the United States had more criteria than the Australian libraries (2018, para 1). They stated that the research collected provides a template for library staff to create an electronic branch with their library system.

In her 2013 paper, Prendergast critiqued information about early

literacy found on English-speaking Canada public libraries. The author used a sample size of 20 urban public libraries for her research and focused on information for parents of young children and elements of diversity and inclusion. Prendergast concluded that public library websites were not being used to their full potential in discussing early literacy (2013, p. 252).

Burke and Boggs (2015) analyzed the access to federal, state and local government programs, websites and forms from public library websites. The authors used a sample size of 396 public libraries and used a content analysis checklist to check specific variables. The results of the research were that 1/3 of public libraries had some form of government information on their website, usually links to government websites or forms (2015, p. 50).

Faulkner's 2018 study explored entrepreneurial resource discovery on public library webpages. The author researched 46 of the largest US public libraries as listed by the American Library Association and used a checklist assessment tool for each library site. Faulkner concluded that the catalog search offered many print and digital resources and most of the libraries partnered with community organizations to offer program of interest to entrepreneurs in their area. Overall, the results of Faulkner's research showed strong support for entrepreneurs but gave recommendations for improvement (2018, p. 78).

The methodology of this study is like previous web analysis because it focuses on resources available on library websites. It builds upon the Beckett-Willis (2018) study of teen



programming resources on public library websites in Mississippi. It differs from that study because it focuses on programming information in general on the website. The results of this research may be used by library staff and librarians to compare what public libraries in the state are offering as programs or may be used to increase or modify existing programs at public libraries.

## METHODS

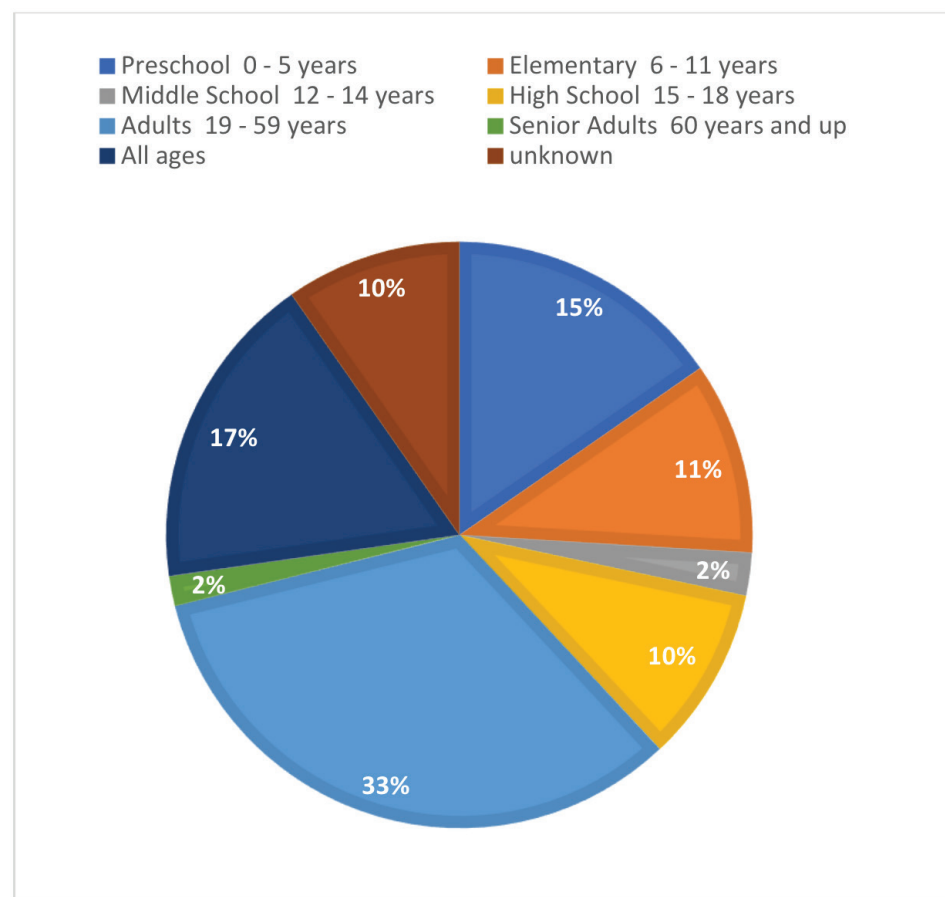
This project used a webometric approach (library website content study) to analyze the types and regularity of programs offered at public libraries in Mississippi. Data were recorded in a spreadsheet. The data were further explained using charts and graphs. It was assumed that the library websites did have up-to-date and correct information.

This study included only Mississippi public libraries. A list of public libraries was retrieved from the Mississippi Library Association's website. Data were collected by viewing each public library system website, using the site search engine to search for library programs, and following the links. The data covered a one-month period, April 2019. This study was restricted to the websites for public libraries in Mississippi, so results of this study are not generalizable to public library websites in other states. With the conduct of this research. All information acquired from the library websites was available to the public.

## FINDINGS

In this study, the websites of 53 Mississippi library systems were analyzed for programs. Of the 53 library systems, 3 did not have library

Figure 1. Age Ranges for Programs Posted on Library Websites



websites, and 19 did not have programs on their websites. Of the 53 library systems, 31 websites showed 547 programs in April 2019. Central Mississippi Regional Library System offered the most programs in April 2019 with 159. Harrison County Library System offered 65 programs. First Regional Library offered 53 programs. Jackson-George Regional Library System offered 41 programs. Mid-Mississippi Regional Library System offered 33 programs as the 5th largest number of programs offered.

Based on the Mississippi public library websites viewed, 547 programs were posted. As shown in Figure 1, the 19-59 age range accounts for 181 (33%) of the 547 programs posted. The 0-5 age range accounts for 84 (15%) of the 547 programs. It was

found that 96 (17%) of programs were open to all ages. The study discloses 23 different types of programs offered based on the library system websites. The most common program type is Storytime with 100 or 18.3 percent of 547 programs. Table 1 shows Storytime as the most common program type with DIY & Crafts as the second most common at 13.3 percent with 73 programs.

Table 2 shows the most common program type for each age range. The research presents Storytime as the most offered program for Preschool (ages 0-5) and Elementary (ages 6-11) children. For Middle School (ages 12-14) and Adults (ages 19-59), Book Groups are commonly offered by Mississippi public libraries. For Teens (ages 15-18), the most recurring program was tied between

**Table 1. Ten Most Common Program Types**

Types of Programs	Number of Programs
Storytime	100
DIY & Crafts	73
Games	58
Book Groups	49
Discussion	40
Authors & Writing	32
Heath & Wellness	31
Movies	27
STEM/STEAM	21
Computer & Technology	19

Discussion and DIY & Crafts programs. For senior adults (60 & up), programs on health & wellness were a popular offering with public libraries.

Based on the study, public libraries in Mississippi held most programs at the library. Only 7 programs or 1.3 percent of library programs were held off-site. Those locations included restaurants, parks, government and nonprofit facilities. A majority at 62.7 percent or 343 programs were recurring. So, 204 programs or 34.3 percent were held one time.

## CONCLUSION

In this study, the websites of 53 Mississippi library systems were analyzed for programs. Of the 53 library systems, 3 did not have library websites, and 19 did not have programs on their websites. Of the 53 library systems, 31 websites showed 547 programs in April 2019. Of the 547 programs, the most common five types of programs were Storytime, DIY & Crafts, Games, Book Groups, and Discussion. Storytime

**Table 2. Top Programs by Age Range**

Age Ranges	Top Program	Number of Programs
0-5 years	Storytime	69
6-11 years	Storytime	22
12-14 years	Book Groups	4
15-18 years	Discussion	12
	DIY& Crafts	12
19-59 years	Book Groups	33
60+ years	Health & Wellness	4

programs were common for the 0-5 and 6-11 age ranges. Book Groups were prominent for the 12-14 and 18-59 age ranges. The 15-18 age range were offered DIY & Crafts and Discussions. The 60 and up age range had Health & Wellness programs.

Most programs were variations of the 23 program types discussed in this paper. But a few anomalies showed up in in the research, programs like *Spring Bird Watching*, *Community Connections: Human Trafficking Awareness*, and *Teen: April Fool's Day Prank-a-palooza* at the Central Mississippi Regional Library System. First Regional Library System offered four programs geared to Spanish speaking patrons, *Class Gratuitas de Ingles y Civica Para Adultos*, *Padres Hispanic Como Companeros de Lecture*, *Cuentos en Espanol: a Spanish Storytime*, and *Mami y Yo*. Research did not show other programs for Spanish speaking or other non-English speaking patrons.

Now the question is what do we do with this information? The research minded librarian could build upon this data to show how social media is being used to promote programs. Additionally, a study could be done to look at how effective is

social media in the marketing of programs. The data from this and future research could be used to create a marketing plan for libraries to promote programming effectively. This data can be useful to evaluate how each public library system compares to others in Mississippi.

There may be programming ideas especially the anomalies that can be shared among the libraries. Librarians and other library staff can use the findings as a stepping-stone to expand their programming or a foundation for new collaboration with other libraries. Imagine pooling the creativity and ideas of library staff across the 53 Mississippi public library systems. As Dr. Seuss said "Oh, the places you'll go! There is fun to be done!" (1990, para 24).

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# STEM Programming for Youth

## *A Webometric Study of Mississippi Public Libraries in 2018*

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### ABSTRACT

This study analyzed the extent to which Mississippi libraries are offering science, technology, engineering, and/or mathematics (STEM) programming for youth using a webometric analysis of the programming information available on websites of public libraries in Mississippi. The focus of this study was STEM programs for youth listed on those websites, such as in public programming schedules or calendars. Information on current and past programming was available from 31 percent of studied websites. In the studied months of July, August, September, and October, October had the most youth programs reported with 475, although July had the most STEM programs with 65, possibly in conjunction with summer reading programs. STEM programs constituted 10 percent of total youth programming offered during the period studied. Of STEM programs offered, 65 percent targeted elementary school aged children, with teenagers and preschoolers offered less STEM programming. Youth

services staff in Mississippi public libraries should consider increasing the number of STEM programs offered at their libraries to support the focus on STEM education in the United States.

### INTRODUCTION

One of the hottest trends in education today is STEM, which stands for science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. While these concepts have long been a part of United States education, studies have shown that jobs in STEM fields are on the rise and education must make these concepts a priority (U.S. Department of Education, n.d.). However, youth in the United States tend to lose interest in STEM subjects as they get older (States, 2015). This may be because practical applications of STEM principles may provide more meaningful experiences than traditional classroom learning.

Public libraries have long offered programming to all age groups. Traditional programs such as storytimes and book clubs take place alongside more modern programs such as digital literacy instruction and gaming events. It is a natural step to begin offering STEM programs to youth in a less formal educational setting

that provides opportunities for hands-on learning. Public libraries are in a unique position to offer effective STEM programming to youth, because as an institution libraries are seen as places that reach out to and support the development of underserved and underprivileged families (Shtivelband, Riendeau, & Jakubowski, 2017). By developing and offering STEM programming targeted at youth, public libraries can help to bridge the gap between the classroom and real-world practical STEM applications.

In order to determine the extent to which public libraries are offering STEM programs to youth, this study will analyze programming information that is available on websites of public libraries in the state of Mississippi. The results may provide insight into whether public libraries in Mississippi have taken the opportunity to offer STEM education to youth and whether these programs are being scheduled, and how often. This may be of interest to youth programming staff in Mississippi by discovering any possible gaps in STEM programming.

The proposed project will examine the extent to which public libraries in the state of Mississippi are incorporating STEM programs



for youth at different developmental stages as indicated by information on programming on library websites.

The following questions will guide the proposed study: What percentage of Mississippi public libraries keep information on current and past programming on their website? In the state of Mississippi, how often are youth programs which focus on STEM concepts offered at public libraries? What age groups, such as preschool, elementary, or teen, are youth-focused STEM programs offered for in Mississippi at public libraries? How does the number of STEM-focused programs for youth compare to the total number of youth programs offered in public libraries in the state of Mississippi?

This study includes only those programs that are identifiable as STEM based on the given descriptions of the programs. To qualify for this study, the program must be listed on publicly available programming information such as schedules or calendars via library websites. Social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram are not included. Only public library websites in the state of Mississippi are included in this study.

It is assumed that public information on programming available on library websites in this study is accurate, complete, and up to date. It is further assumed that programs have a clear title and/or an accurate description of the program's content. Lastly, it is assumed that programs scheduled during data collection are accurately representative of the libraries' STEM programming in general.

By determining how often

STEM-related youth programming is offered in public libraries in Mississippi, this study will show areas where libraries are doing well as well as areas for improvement. Results may be of interest to youth professionals at public libraries, teachers in STEM fields, and community partners.

## LITERATURE REVIEW

### STEM PROGRAMS

While relatively little scholarly research could be located on STEM programming in public libraries, there are many articles from professional and scholarly publications on the benefits of STEM programming and best practices. Hopwood (2012) suggests that by focusing too narrowly on literacy, public libraries are doing their communities a disservice by neglecting the nonfiction section of the collection, which is typically a significant portion of the print materials. By offering STEM programming, public libraries can demonstrate a willingness to offer informal education and promote community partnerships, which could possibly positively influence stakeholders when funding is being discussed (Hopwood, 2012).

Another reason to offer STEM programming in public libraries is that the United States has fallen behind in terms of STEM education and there are federal initiatives to increase schooling in these fields (Sharma, 2016). Jobs in STEM fields are rising, and these workers earn higher than median wages, which makes STEM programming for youth an easy way to give necessary and profitable life skills to children of all ages (Sharma, 2016). In a survey of public libraries, more than

a quarter of respondents reported offering STEM programs at least monthly, and the majority of all respondents stated that they wished to offer programs for children in kindergarten all the way to high school, indicating that library staff who plan youth programs see the importance of STEM principles across developmental stages (Shtivelband et al., 2017). There are numerous websites and blogs that promote STEM education, as well as agencies such as the National Center for Interactive Learning and Science Technology Activities and Resources Network, or STAR Net (Overbey, Dotson, & LaBadie, 2018). Partnerships with businesses, higher education, museums, and university extension services can also help to bring quality STEM programs to youth in public libraries (Overbey et al., 2018).

### WEBSITE ANALYSIS

While no webometric studies published on STEM-related youth programming could be located in the LIS literature, there are studies with a similar methodology that analyze library websites for information on both youth materials and programming. Kanazawa, Maruyama, and Motoki (2011) studied the website content and structure for public library web pages aimed at children in Japan. Each website was evaluated for informational tool contents such as program information, reference tool contents such as internet links, instructional tool contents such as homework help, and research content tools such as information on children's books. It was determined that the evaluated websites focused on informational tool contents and reference tool contents, while instructional tool contents and

research tool contents were less frequent (Kanazawa et al., 2011).

Prendergast (2013) studied the websites of 20 public libraries in Canada to see if early literacy resources were presented with inclusiveness in mind. A sample of English-speaking libraries was selected across several provinces, and the text and image content of each was viewed through a “diversity/inclusion lens” (Prendergast, 2013, p. 236). Because many storytimes were advertised as being for specific ages, few encouraged attendance by ESL families, and disabilities and developmental delays were left out of descriptions and images. The author suggested keeping inclusivity and increasing diverse communities in mind when creating and promoting early literacy resources (Prendergast, 2013).

Beckett-Willis (2017) studied how teen programming at public libraries was promoted online in the state of Mississippi. Data were collected from all functional public library websites in Mississippi, including how many clicks it took to access the material, how the programs were promoted, and what types of programs were being offered. The author discovered that 30.7 percent of the libraries studied promote teen programs and that it generally takes two or fewer clicks to access that information (Beckett-Willis, 2017).

Library professionals see the reported importance of STEM programming, but it is unknown if public libraries are offering these programs. By surveying available resources, this study examines whether and how often public libraries in Mississippi are

implementing programs for youth that are STEM-focused by analyzing their websites for information on programming.

## METHODOLOGY

This study was performed using a webometric analysis of the websites of public libraries in Mississippi. The focus of this study is STEM programs for youth that are listed on those websites, such as in public programming schedules or calendars.

## DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS

The list of public libraries in Mississippi was obtained from the Mississippi Library Commission (MLC). According to this directory, there are 53 public library systems in Mississippi (MLC, n.d.). Each library’s website was explored to locate any publicly available programming information, which was then observed and analyzed for programs that are both for youth and that have a focus on at least one of the STEM principles of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. Programs for the months of July, August, September, and October were collected to capture programming from both the typically busy summer season as well as during the school year. The total number of youth programs from the selected timeframe was recorded, as well as what age group each program was intended for. Programs that were identified as STEM were recorded separately. Data were compiled in Microsoft Excel and analyzed to address each research question. Results were collected and displayed in simple charts, graphs, and tables as appropriate.

## LIMITATIONS

Because this study took data from public library websites, only libraries who keep information on programming available on their websites were included. Libraries who perform their program announcements and promotions via social media platforms were not included, which could potentially lead to some programs being missed. While results and findings may not be representative of STEM programming in other states or other types of libraries, this could be a topic for further research to determine if results are comparable.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

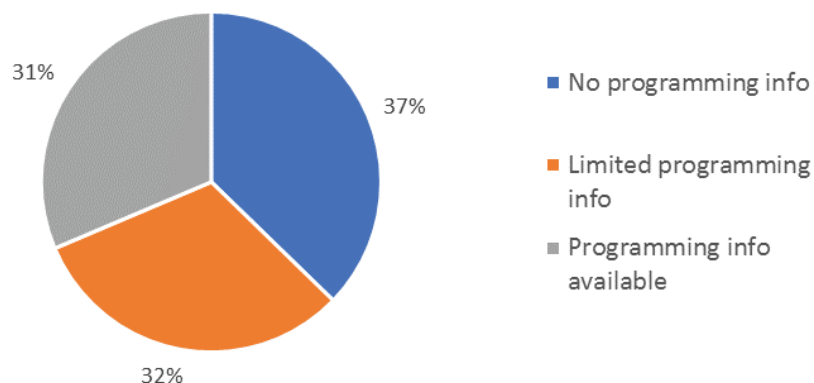
### What percentage of Mississippi public libraries keep information on current and past programming on their website?

The MLC lists 53 public library systems or independent public libraries in the state of Mississippi (MLC, n.d.). Of these, 51 had functioning websites. Nineteen of these websites (37%) only provided limited information such as branch information and the library’s online catalog, so programming information was not available on these sites. Thirty-two percent of libraries did include programming information on their websites, but this information was limited in scope, such as providing program information for only the current month or for large events such as summer library programs. The remaining 31 percent of the websites had programming information freely available through calendars, schedules, published newsletters, or posted recurring events (Figure 1).

It was interesting to discover that



Figure 1 - Programming Availability on MS Public Library Websites



the libraries studied were more likely to not keep program information on their websites – thirty-seven percent of libraries provide websites that give basic information, such as location, hours of operation, online catalogs, and links to helpful resources such as MAGNOLIA. With the expectation of libraries to adapt and evolve in order to meet the demands of an increasingly digital society, it was not expected that so many Mississippi public libraries had websites with only minimal information. The possible benefit to keeping information freely available on websites is accessibility. Not all library users can be expected to have an account on Facebook, Twitter, and/or Instagram; however, anyone with an Internet connection may access a website, and this makes discovery simple as these sites will usually appear through a simple search via search engine.

Thirty-two percent of the libraries studied did have some programming information available, but that information was limited. Some examples of this limited information include programming information only for

the current month with no way to see past programs, event schedules that list repeating programs such as storytimes without giving themes, or generally vague program listings that do not address the intended age group or theme of the programs. This form of programming information will likely provide most of the information an average library user will require. However, there are benefits to providing access to past programming information, such as users being able to request repeats of previously available programs or suggesting expansion of program topics. Users may also plan schedules based on past programming information, such as whether summer library programs are offered in both June and July or primarily in just one of those months. Libraries who are able to publish this information should consider doing so.

The smallest percentage of Mississippi public libraries, 31 percent, keep detailed programming information available on their websites. Most of these libraries keep calendars somewhere on their websites that users can scroll through,

allowing them to view programs from different months. The more detailed of these calendars have features that allow the user to view a detailed description of the programs, and some even have the ability to filter programs by type, age group, or subject. With consistent tagging and cross-referencing, calendar filters have the potential to be a boon to library users as well as scholars. In a few cases, programming information was attained through archived newsletters available on a website that provided information on library events on a regular basis.

### **In the state of Mississippi, how often are youth programs which focus on STEM concepts offered at public libraries?**

This study collected data from the months of July, August, September, and October. Mississippi public libraries offered the most programs for youth in the months of July and October, with 438 and 475, respectively. The least number of programs were offered in August with 281 total programs, and September had 339 programs offered for youth. The highest number of STEM programs were offered in the month of July, with 65 programs available for youth. The number drops in August with the lowest number of STEM programs at 21. September had 39 STEM programs for youth listed on websites, and October had 30. The month with the lowest number of total youth programs, August, was also the month with the lowest number of youth STEM programs. While July had the highest number of youth STEM programs, October had more total youth programs (Figure 2).

The highest number of total

Figure 2 - MS Public Libraries' Youth Programs Over Time

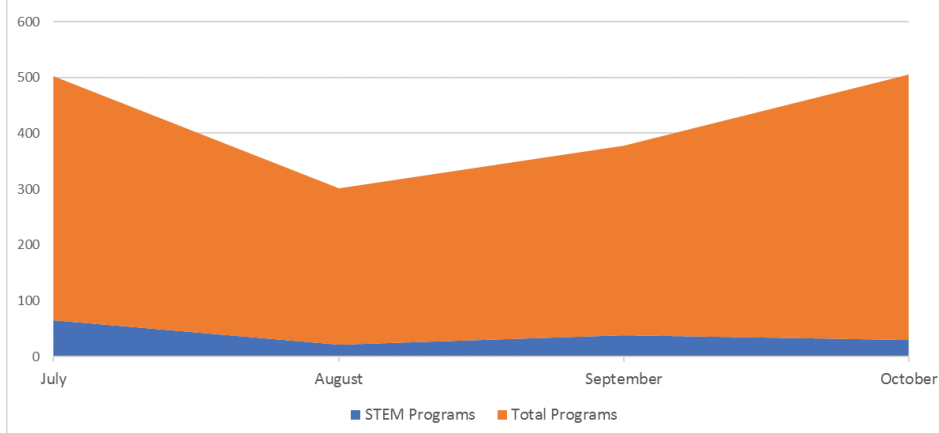
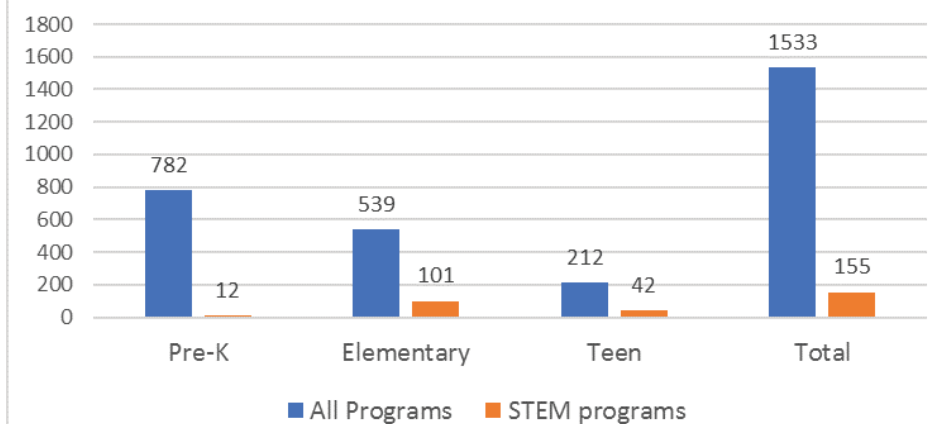


Figure 3 - MS Public Libraries' Programs for Youth by Age Group



programs for youth were from the month of October, which was interesting considering that public libraries generally offer a high number of programs during the summer when children are out of school. July was the month with the second-highest number of programs, and it was also the month with the highest number of STEM programs. October, with the highest number of total youth programs, only 6 percent of programs could be identified as STEM. While the data seem to indicate that STEM programs are more likely to be scheduled during the summer months when children are out of school and libraries are

offering summer reading programs, a study over a longer period would be beneficial in properly determining trends over time.

Of the 51 Mississippi public library websites studied, only 4 (8%) had at least one STEM program scheduled per month studied. This is markedly lower than the more than one quarter reported by Shtivelband et al. (2017), indicating that Mississippi is below the reported national average in regards to STEM programming for youth in public libraries. Youth services staff in Mississippi public libraries may wish to increase the frequency with which STEM programs are offered

in order to compare favorably with other public libraries.

**What age groups, such as preschool, elementary, or teen, are youth-focused STEM programs offered for in Mississippi at public libraries?**

In the studied months of July, August, September, and October, a total of 155 programs were offered for youth that were clearly identifiable as having a focus on one or any of the STEM concepts of science, technology, engineering, and math. Twelve (8%) of these programs were aimed at preschoolers, although not all preschool storytime programs had themes listed. The majority of STEM programs were offered for elementary school aged children, with 101 (65%) programs identified for this age group. Forty-two STEM programs (27%) were identified for teenagers. Compared to the total number of programs offered for these age groups, STEM programs only appear to compromise a small portion of youth library programming (Figure 3).

The data indicate that very few STEM programs were offered for preschoolers by Mississippi public libraries, with only 12 out of a total of 782 (1.5%) programs for that age group. One potential issue with evaluating programs for STEM concepts for this age group is that the majority of preschool programs are storytimes. Even with the theme of the storytime listed, it is difficult to determine if the storytime is in fact STEM without more information. For instance, it was not assumed that a storytime on turtles or another animal was science based because there may have been no facts or scientific knowledge incorporated into



the storytime. However, a concept such as weather can be considered STEM because to discuss the topic is to introduce the science behind different types of weather, even if the ideas are very basic. This is a simple way to insert STEM learning into programs that traditionally focus on early literacy.

Sharma (2016) stated that libraries offering STEM programs to youth of all ages is a beneficial way to begin teaching these concepts to children. Shtivelband et al. (2017), however, indicated that the majority of public libraries stated that they were interested in offering STEM programs for kindergarten through high school. This leaves out the preschool age group, indicating perhaps some barrier in offering STEM programs to this age group. One barrier that may be affecting library staff in providing STEM programs for this age group may be technology. Since the availability of digital devices has increased, it has been cautioned that young children should have limited “screen time” (Martinelli, n.d.). Therefore, library staff may be hesitant to do STEM programming with our very youngest age group. However, technology programming that provides tactile learning as opposed to just manipulating a computer screen may be an alternative. The concepts of science, engineering, and math may easily be introduced to preschoolers through manipulatives such as blocks or the basics of numbers and counting. This presents an opportunity for further research.

Many of the STEM programs offered by Mississippi public libraries in this study are for the elementary school age group. These programs

varied from science demonstrations to coding classes to Lego builds. The programs offered for elementary school aged children seemed to have a wide variety without overly focusing on any one STEM concept. There were some STEM programs offered for teens, with 42 STEM programs identified out of a total of 212 programs for this age group. The majority of these programs were technology driven, with video games and computers being a popular focus. Technology is popular with every age group represented by this study, but libraries should be cautioned against focusing too narrowly on the “T” in STEM. Programs that highlight concepts besides technology may also be easier to implement due to the fact that acquiring technology for youth programs may be challenging to a strained budget.

According to this study, 19 percent of the programs for elementary school aged children are STEM focused and 20 percent of the programs for teens are STEM focused. This is interesting because States (2015) indicated that children begin to lose interest in STEM fields and education as they get older. However, data indicate that Mississippi public libraries are offering slightly more STEM programs to teens than to elementary school aged children. It would be interesting to discover if these programs for teens are well attended as that would offer a thought-provoking contrast to States’s claims.

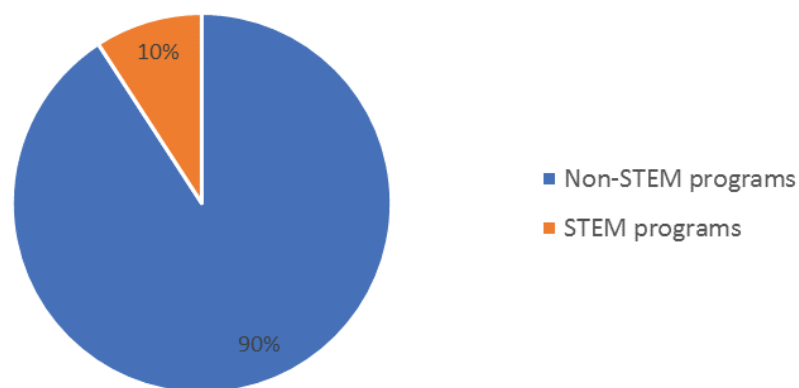
**How does the number of STEM-focused programs for youth compare to the total number of youth programs offered in public libraries in the state of Mississippi?**

Mississippi public libraries offered a total of 1533 programs for youth during the time frame of this study. The majority of these programs were for preschoolers with 782 programs (51%) targeting this age group. Elementary school aged children had 539 programs (35%) available for them, and teens had 212 programs (14%) available. The total number of STEM programs for the combined age groups of pre-school, elementary, and teen was 155 programs (Figure 3). This indicates that only 10 percent of programs for youth offered by Mississippi public libraries that were identified via their websites qualified as programs that focused on STEM concepts (Figure 4). This number is low when compared to the statement by Shtivelband et al. (2017) that indicates that over one quarter of libraries are offering STEM programs at least monthly. Because the United States is falling behind in STEM education, youth services staff in Mississippi public libraries should consider increasing the number of STEM programs offered at their libraries (Sharma, 2016).

The implications of this study offer several opportunities for further research. A study including analysis of public library social media platforms may offer additional information on both STEM programming and all programming for youth. A study of programs offered in school libraries could indicate how those libraries are complementing STEM education in their schools. Research could be conducted over a longer period of time in order to gain additional findings on trends over time in regard to both STEM and general youth programming. Additionally,

research could be done on how public libraries use their websites considering the findings here regarding websites with minimal information and resources. Further research on STEM learning with preschoolers and the role public libraries may play may be considered. Additional research could be done on STEM programs for underserved populations, such as the developmentally different or diverse populations. This study could also be expanded to gain information on other locations, such as other states or even countries.

Figure 4 - MS Public Libraries' Programs for Youth



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# Mississippi LIBRARIES

Cultivating

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Inspiring

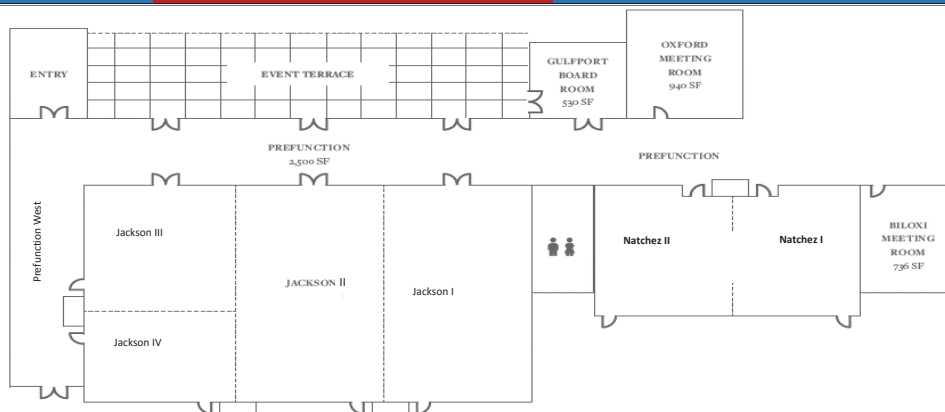
mla

2019 MLA Conference

Oct. 22-25, 2019

The Westin Jackson  
407 South Congress Street  
Jackson, MS

## Schedule at a Glance



Tuesday Oct 22 - Registration 12:00 - 4:00pm										
12:30-4:30pm		Pre-conference Workshop - "Librarians Guide to Homelessness" - Ryan Dowd, Homeless Training Institute [Natchez I & II]								
4:30-5:30pm		MLA Board Meeting [Natchez I]								
6:00pm - 8:00pm		"Evening with the Arts" - Evening of food and drink at the gallery and gardens of MS Museum of Arts								
Wednesday Oct 23 - Registration 7:30am - 4:00pm										
8:00am-10:00 - Coffee - Sponsored by EBSCO										
8:00-9:30am	Southern Miss SLIS Alumni Breakfast - Ticketed \$ Natchez I	8:30-9:30am	Telling Your Story Jackson III	8:30-9:30am	Declutter your Program Planning with Backward Design Oxford	Poster Session Lightening Rounds 11:00am-12:00pm Biloxi	Gaming and Graphic Novel Roundtable "Free Play Room" 10:00am-3:00pm Gulfport	Vendors Prefunction Area & Jackson I Open 12:00-5:00pm		
			Promoting the Positive Jackson IV							
8:30-9:15am	New Members Roundtable Welcome Gulfport		Libraries Inspire! Natchez II							
MLA Business Meeting 9:30 - 10:00am Jackson II										
Keynote Speaker: Mr. Malcolm White, Executive Director, MS Arts Commission 10:00 - 11:00am Jackson II										
11:00am-12:00pm	A Look into MarcEdit and OCLC Technical Services Roundable Oxford	11:00am-12:00pm	Charlotte Smelser, Arts Education Director, Mississippi Arts Commission Jackson II	11:00am-12:00pm	Poster Session Lightening Rounds Biloxi					
	Laundry & Literacy: Library of Congress Literacy Award Project Jackson III		Think Outside the Book: Unconventional Library Services to Support Teaching and Scholarship Jackson IV		Escape the Traditional One-Shot Session Natchez II					
12:00pm		Exhibits Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting [PreFunction Area and Jackson I]								
Poster Sessions set up in Prefunction Area 12:00-3:00p		Black Caucus Luncheon - Ticketed \$ 12:15-1:30p Natchez I								
12:00-1:30pm		Lunch								
1:30 - 2:30pm	Don't Reinvent the Wheel Oxford	1:30-2:30pm	Do you have a Comment? Jackson II	1:30-2:30pm		Silent Auction 11:00am-4:00pm Biloxi				
	Developing a College Composition Program and Library at Central Mississippi Correctional Facility Jackson III		Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) Section Jackson IV		Automating Image Files without a Developer Natchez II					
2:30-3:30pm	University Library Directors Meeting Oxford	2:30-3:30pm	Combating Fake News Jackson II	2:30-3:30pm	Friends of the Library - Diversity in Romance Fiction Natchez I					
	MS Access to Justice Commission Jackson III		Creating Library Graphics with Open Source Tools Jackson IV		Who Do I Call? Where Do I Go? - Demystifying MS's 3 State Agency Libraries Natchez II					
3:30-4:30	Tips for Transitioning 3:30-4:30 Oxford	3:30-4:30	Ebsco LearningExpress Training Jackson II	3:30-4:30	Librarianship 101 Reunion: Slaying Shelf Reading Natchez I	MAGNOLIA Steering Committee Meeting Gulfport				
	Promoting Social Justice through Library Service Jackson III		Sirsi User Group (MSUG) Jackson IV		Implementing a One Hour, For-Credit Research Skills Course Natchez II					
	Ice Cream Social (Sponsored by The Library Furniture Guy) 4:00-5:00pm [Prefunction Area]									
5:00-9:00pm		President's Reception and Scholarship Bash - Iron Horse Grill- Ticketed \$								

Gaming and Graphic Novel Roundtable "Free Play Room" 10:00am-3:00pm Gulfport

Vendors Prefunction Area & Jackson I Open 12:00-5:00pm

		Schedule at a Glance				
Thursday Oct 24 - Registration 8:00am - 3:00pm						
8:00-10:00am - Coffee - Sponsored by C-SPIRE						
Exhibits Open 9:00am-3:00pm!						
8:30-9:30am	New Members Roundtable "Welcome" Gulfport	8:30-9:30am	SLIS Focus Group Biloxi	8:30-9:30am	What Students Want - Updating a Community College Library Natchez I	Past President's Breakfast - Off site 8:30-9:30am [TBA]
	School Library Section "Using National Geographic Giant Maps to Engage Students" Jackson III		Beehive Resource Sharing Update Jackson II		Assessing a One-Shot for First Year Writing Students Natchez II	
			Graphic Novel Collections in the Acad. Library Jackson IV		The Magnolia Awards Oxford	
9:30-10:30am	School Library Section "How do AASL's Standards Drive Collaboration in Mississippi?" Jackson III	9:30-10:30am	Womb Literacy Jackson II	9:30-10:30am	TAB: Valuable Volunteering Natchez I	
			Reaching Diverse Developing Readers Jackson IV		Improving User Experience in the Library Natchez II	
					Text to Checkout Pilot Project Oxford	
10:30-11:30	School Library Section "Using National Geographic Giant Maps to Engage Students" Jackson III	10:30-11:30	How Can I Help You? And Other Ways You're Losing Your Patrons Jackson II	10:30-11:30am	Moving Beyond the One-Shot Session Natchez II	Poster Lightening Rounds 10:30am-11:30pm Biloxi
	Poster Session Lightening Rounds Biloxi		A Natural Fit: Librarians and Open Educational Resources Jackson IV		Looking at the Big Picture Oxford	
11:30am - 1:00pm		LUNCH				
Posters on Display in Prefunction Area 11:30-3pm		Using Graphic Design Ideas in the Library (YPSRT Luncheon) - Ticketed \$ 11:30-1:00 Natchez I				
1:00-2:00pm		1:00-2:00pm	Document, Document, Document! Jackson II	1:00-2:00pm	Escape the Classroom Natchez II	Silent Auction 11:30am-4:30pm Biloxi
	School Library Section "Best of AASL" Jackson III		MAG 101: Crash Course into the World of MAGNOLIA Jackson IV		We Want You! All of You! Oxford	
2:00-3:00pm	Friends of Fay B. Kaigler Oxford	2:00-3:00pm	Lunching & Learning Jackson II	2:00-3:00pm	Utica Normal & Industrial Institute: The Legacy of William Holtzclaw Natchez I	
	Genrefying Made Easy James Taylor (Mackin Books) Jackson III		Teen Programming Jackson IV		Beta Phi Mu 2-2:30pm Natchez II	
Closing Keynote Speaker: Jill Conner Browne, Author & Motivational Speaker 3:00pm - 4:00pm Jackson II						
Silent Auction Closes at 4:30pm						
Society of Mississippi Archivists Come-and-Go Happy Hour 4:00-6:00pm, Iron Horse Grill						



# Pre-Conference Workshop

**WORKING WITH INDIVIDUALS  
AFFECTED BY HOMELESSNESS:  
AN EMPATHY-DRIVEN APPROACH  
WITH RYAN DOWD, HOMELESS  
TRAINING INSTITUTE (CHICAGO,  
IL) Free Ticketed Event**

As part of their patron community, libraries today encounter many individuals experiencing homelessness. **Ryan Dowd**, author of *The Librarian's Guide to Homelessness: An Empathy-Driven Approach to Solving Problems*, has spent most of his career as Executive Director of a large homeless shelter outside of Chicago, Illinois. He has provided training throughout the country to



libraries, nonprofits, police departments, hospitals and other organizations, to help agencies develop an empathy-driven enforcement and to introduce them to an approach that can help effectively work with community members affected by

homelessness. In this 4-hour workshop, Dowd will provide attendees a greater understanding of patrons affected by homelessness and their communication styles. He will also share practical tactics that can help resolve problems in challenging situations and provide attendees with concrete strategies that can be used immediately, including body language tips, communication styles and techniques, and more. His book, *The Librarian's Guide to Homelessness*, was published by the American Library Association. Ryan is a licensed attorney and has a Master's of Public Administration.

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## Featured Speakers

### OPENING SESSION

**Malcolm White** is the Executive Director of the Mississippi Arts Commission (MAC), a position he has served in almost continuously since 2005. He was the director of the Mississippi Development Authority's Tourism Division from 2012-2015. He is the owner of Jackson's own Hal & Mal's restaurant and the founder of the famous Jackson St. Patrick's Day parade and other special events and festivals throughout the state. A native of Stone County, Mississippi, White holds a bachelor's degree in Social Studies from the University of Southern Mississippi. White is involved with South Arts, the Mississippi Blues and Country Music Trails, Downtown Jackson Partners and he is past chairman of the Mississippi Blues Commission. In 2015, he published *Little Stories:*



*A Collection of Mississippi Photos*, a book of images he created from visits covering the state over several years.



### CLOSING GENERAL SESSION

**Jill Conner Browne** is the #1 New York Times bestselling author of the *Sweet Potato Queens* books and founder of the Sweet Potato Queens Women's Organization, with over 6,200 chapters in 37



countries. She recently collaborated with Melissa Manchester, Sharon Vaughn and Rupert Holmes to produce *SWEET POTATO QUEENS The Musical* which premiered March 2016 in Houston, Texas. In addition to her Queenly activities, Ms. Browne has founded an array of fundraising events (including the Zippity Doo Dah® Weekend benefiting Children's Hospital and the Women's Fund of The Community Foundation of Greater Jackson) and has been involved in numerous

other fundraising activities including Hurricane Katrina relief efforts, Chefs for Humanity™ for law enforcement & victims on the Gulf Coast and the nationally televised Mississippi Rising Gala Concert which raised over \$15 Million. She serves on the Volunteer Board of the



Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy and on the Executive Board of Trustees for Extra Table—a non-profit providing healthy food to food pantries and soup kitchens throughout Mississippi. Ms. Browne is from Tupelo and currently resides in Raymond, MS.

## Mississippi Author Awards

**TENA CLARK: 2019 MLA WINNER FOR NON-FICTION - SOUTHERN DISCOMFORT: A MEMOIR**

A musical compass has guided Clark from humble beginnings as a drummer and engineer in rural Waynesboro, Mississippi, to being discovered by Stevie Wonder. She has written and produced for some of music's greatest legends including Aretha Franklin, won a Grammy for her work with Natalie Cole, nominated for a Grammy with Patti LaBelle and worked with artists such as Leann Rimes, Dionne Warwick, Chaka Khan and Maya Angelou. Clark is the CEO/Chief Creative Officer for DMI Music & Media Solutions. Her work spans film, television, stage, records and brands. Clark is also a civil rights activist and crusader for women's rights. Her song, "Break the Chain," written for the organization One Billion Rising - a movement to end violence against women and girls - has become the most globally performed song in history. Clark is one of the most influential female producers in the music industry and American media. Clark's first book is a memoir titled "*Southern*



*Discomfort*" and was published by Touchstone in October 2018.

**TIFFANY QUAY TYSON: 2019 MLA WINNER FOR FICTION - THE PAST IS NEVER**

Tiffany Quay Tyson is the author of two novels, *The Past is Never* and *Three Rivers*. *The Past is Never* won the 2019 Mississippi Institute of Arts and Letters Award for Fiction and The Clarion-Ledger called it "mesmerizing Southern Gothic."

Tiffany was born and raised in Jackson, Mississippi. She is a graduate of Delta State University. After college she worked for a brief stint as a newspaper reporter at the Greenwood Commonwealth where she received the Frank Allen Award for Journalism from the Associated Press Managing Editors Association. She is the recipient of two Heartland Emmy Awards including one for writing for a children's public television program. She lives in Denver, Colorado, where she serves as a faculty member at Lighthouse Writers Workshop and the Lighthouse Young Writers Program.



**LINDA WILLIAMS JACKSON: 2019 MLA WINNER FOR JUVENILE - MIDNIGHT WITHOUT A MOON**

Born and raised in Rosedale, Mississippi, Linda Williams Jackson is an award-winning author. Her middle grade novel, *Midnight Without a Moon* was a 2018 American Library Association Notable Children's Book, a Jane Addams Honor Book for Peace and Social Justice, and a Washington Post Summer Book Club Selection. *Midnight Without a Moon* appears on four state reading lists and on numerous recommended reading lists at many middle schools and public libraries, including the New York Public Library and the San Francisco Public Library. Mrs. Jackson's second book, *A Sky Full of Stars*, received a Malka Penn Honor for an outstanding children's book addressing human rights issues and was cited as one of Bank Street College's best books of the year for 2019. Mrs. Jackson lives in Southaven, Mississippi with her family.



# Session Speakers

## SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER

**Charlotte Smelser** is Director of Arts Education at the Mississippi Arts Commission. Uniquely positioned to provide support for arts education across the state, Ms. Smelser focuses on assisting educators in telling the powerful story of their work – both in the classroom and in the community. Leading the Commission's Whole Schools program, she provides support for teachers in developing their skills for arts integrated teaching to improve academic success for all students. Ms. Smelser's professional teaching experience encompasses both public and private school campuses and University settings to include general education, music education, arts integration, 21st century learning skills and creativity. Working with teachers and librarians to become reflective practitioners and action researchers, she continues her support for research and life-long learning.



Universities and Libraries to put in place VR Academies and curriculum programming to incorporate VR in day-to-day classroom use. As part of the development, Lobaki deploys a collaboration platform where institutions can access Virtual and Augmented Reality industry information, related curricular and training materials, assets, lesson plans and best practices as generated by VR Academy instructors and partner teachers.



## BLACK CAUCUS LUNCHEON (TICKETED) FEATURED SPEAKER

**Ebony Lumumba** is an English professor and department chair at Tougaloo College. She received her Ph.D. in English Literature from the University of Mississippi, an MA in English from Georgia State University and graduated Magna Cum Laude from Spelman College with a BA in English. She was named the 2013 Eudora Welty Research Fellow by the Mississippi Department of Archives and History and the Eudora Welty Foundation and was honored as Tougaloo College's Humanities Teacher of the Year in 2014. Dr. Lumumba is an active scholar with publications that include chapters in *From Uncle Tom's Cabin to The Help: Critical Perspectives on White-Authored Texts of Black Life*; *Teaching the Works of Eudora Welty: Twenty-first Century Approaches*; and *New Essays on Welty, Class, and Race*. She currently serves as a board member for the



Foundation for Mississippi History, the Mississippi Humanities Council, The International Ballet Competition, The Mississippi Book Festival and advisory boards of the Eudora Welty Foundation and the Mississippi Museum of Art. She is the founder of Mothers Obtaining Justice and Opportunities (MOJO)—a non-profit organization that supports mothers pursuing undergraduate and graduate degrees. In her spare time, she serves as the host of "Write On, Mississippi"—a literary podcast sponsored by the Mississippi Book Festival. Dr. Lumumba is happily married to her kindergarten sweetheart Chokwe Antar Lumumba—Honorable Mayor of the city of Jackson, Mississippi—and the couple has two unbelievably adorable daughters, Alaké and Nubia.



## BETA PHI MU FEATURED SPEAKERS

### Hali Black and Kathryn New - Escape the Classroom: Implementing Game-based Learning

Research shows that active-learning increases a student's understanding in the classroom by raising the student's level of engagement which in turns helps them to hone their critical thinking and problem solving skills. This presentation will be focusing on the game-based learning aspect of active-learning to facilitate instruction within the library and the use of BreakoutEDU kits that allow for the creation of escape rooms within your classroom or library.

**Hali Black** is the First Year

## ACRL FEATURED SPEAKER

**Vince Jordan** is President and CEO of Jackson, Mississippi's Lobaki, Inc., an Extended Reality (XR) firm that develops educational and training experiences using Virtual and Augmented Reality. Lobaki started a nonprofit Virtual Reality (VR) training academy in 2018 and currently works with K-12 Schools, Community Colleges,





Experience Librarian and an Instructor for the First Year Writing program at the University of Southern Mississippi, where she is part of a team responsible for providing general and specialized research assistance, instruction, and outreach. After earning her MLIS degree from the University of Alabama, Black developed a passion for working with first year students to improve their information literacy skills and find balance as they adapt to college life.



**Kathryn New** is the Arts and Humanities Librarian on the Hattiesburg Campus at the University of Southern Mississippi. Her position provides library instruction, collection development, and research assistance to a wide range of programs from fine arts to political science. Along with incorporating game-based learning into library instruction, Kathryn is also working on a digital humanities project regarding Frederick Douglass and working on a second Master's degree in History.



#### **FRIENDS OF MISSISSIPPI LIBRARIES SPEAKER**

##### **Brenda Jackson - Diversity in Romance Fiction**

This year's Friends of Mississippi Libraries, Inc. program will focus on diversity in romance. This genre is wildly popular with Mississippians but getting our romance readers inspired to explore new areas of the genre can be a challenge. A

trailblazer in this area, Brenda Jackson was the first African American author to make both the New York Times Best Sellers and USA TODAY's Best-Selling Books lists in the romance series category. Join us for a discussion on her current projects and the importance of diversity in romance. Want to try something new in your romance collection? Put it on the wish list for your Friends!

**Brenda Jackson** is a New York Times bestselling author of more than one hundred romance titles. A trailblazer in the romance genre, Brenda was the first African American author to publish under Harlequin's Silhouette Desire line. Brenda lives in Jacksonville, Florida, and divides her time between family, writing and traveling. Email Brenda at [authorbrendajackson@gmail.com](mailto:authorbrendajackson@gmail.com) or visit her on her website at <https://www.brendajackson.net>.



#### **SCHOOL LIBRARY SECTION SPEAKERS**

##### **Sylvia C. Leggette and Mary Keeling**

**Mary Keeling**, AASL President, is Supervisor of Library Media Services in Newport News, VA. As district supervisor, she has led the development and implementation of a district-wide inquiry process model. Prior to her work as an elementary school librarian, Mary worked in academic and museum libraries. She is a Lilead Fellow and has served as president



of her state school library association, chair of the AASL Supervisors Section, and on several AASL committees. She serves on advisory boards for the Newport News Public Library and Old Dominion University's MLIS degree program; has written and taught online courses for AASL eCollab; and written for School Library Monthly, Knowledge Quest, and Library Media Connection. As Chair of AASL's Standards Implementation Task Force, she and her committee developed resources to support the launch of the National School Library Standards in 2019.

**Sylvia C. Leggette** holds a Masters of Library Information Science and is currently working in the Jackson Public School District as an Instructional Technology Facilitator. She has worked in a variety of positions including 9 years as a middle school librarian. In addition to this she serves on the advisory boards of the Mississippi Geographic Alliance and the National Geographic Society Regional Office.



#### **SPECIAL LIBRARIES SECTION SPEAKERS**

##### **Ally Mellon, Tracy Carr and Stephen Parks - "Who Do I Call? Where Do I Go?" - Demystifying Mississippi's Three State Agency Libraries**

The three state agency libraries of Mississippi—the State Law Library, the Mississippi Library Commission, and the Mississippi Department of Archives & History—each serve unique populations with their

own unique collections and policies. Representatives from each library will explain the policies, collections, and services of their respective library in an effort to help attendees better understand which library they should contact when certain requests and issues arise.

**Ally Mellon** has worked in libraries in Mississippi for 9 years. She earned her M.L.I.S. in 2012 from the University of Southern Mississippi. She currently serves as the Library Services Director for the Mississippi Department of Archives and History.



**Tracy Carr** is the Library Services Director at the Mississippi Library Commission. She also serves as the Director of the Mississippi Center for the Book, a Library of Congress program dedicated to books and reading. She has an MA in English from Mississippi State University and an MLIS from The University of Alabama.



**Stephen Parks** is the current State Librarian of Mississippi and oversees the State Law Library of Mississippi. Prior to being appointed to this position, he worked at the Mississippi College Law School Library. He has a JD from Mississippi College School of Law and a MLIS from the University of Southern Mississippi.



## TECHNICAL SERVICES ROUNDTABLE SPEAKERS

**Preston Salisbury and Joy Dubose - A Look into MarcEdit and OCLC**

TSRT this year highlights tips for using the cataloging tools MarcEdit and OCLC Connexion. These programs can be confusing for those who are not used to them but they are extremely useful and time-saving tools. Highlights include some of the services available that users may not be aware of. A TSRT business meeting will follow the presentation.

**Preston Salisbury** is Assistant Professor and Monographic Cataloger at Mississippi State University and Secretary of the Technical Services Round Table of MLA. He received his MLIS from the University of Southern Mississippi and has experience cataloging for both public and academic libraries.



**Joy Dubose** is the Cataloger for Special Collections and an Assistant Professor at Mississippi State University. She holds her MLIS degree from University of Southern Mississippi (2008). She started her library career as the librarian for the Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives in Nashville, TN. and was later the metadata librarian and cataloger for Madison County Library System in Canton. She has presented at the annual conference of the American Library Association on foreign language cataloging and digitization.



## YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES LUNCHEON (TICKETED)

**Jess Ruliffson - Comics Come to Life: Visual Journalism as Graphic Novel**

**Jess Ruliffson** is an award-winning cartoonist. Her debut graphic novel, *Invisible Wounds*, is forthcoming from Fantagraphics. In 2017, her comic *I Trained to Fight the Enemy* was shortlisted for Slate's Cartoonist Studio Prize. Her comics have appeared in *Freeman's Tale of Two Americas*, *Virginia Quarterly Review*, *The Gainesville Sun*, *BuzzFeed*, *The Nib*, *The Boston Globe*, *Pantheon Books*, *Wilson Quarterly*, and *The Oxford American*. She teaches comics and painting at The Sequential Artists Workshop in Gainesville, FL and The School of Visual Arts in NYC. Jess is represented by Duvall Osteen at Aragi, Inc.





# National Library Week 2019

**David Brown**

*Chair*

*National Library Week Committee 2019*

Libraries across our state embraced the theme “**Mississippi Libraries = Strong Communities**” during National Library Week 2019, April 7th-13th. The annual celebration highlights the valuable role libraries, librarians and library workers play in transforming lives and communities. We know libraries are at the heart of their cities, towns, schools and campuses, and National Library week is chance to show what we have to offer.

Governor Phil Bryant issued a Proclamation, declaring April 7-13 as National Library Week in Mississippi. Governor Bryant encouraged all residents to “visit the library this week and explore what’s new at your library and engage with your librarian.”

Libraries used this week to

showcase programming, services, collections and initiatives that illustrate the impact libraries have in so many areas in Mississippi. Here are few highlights from libraries around the state:

In the spirit of community, **North-east Mississippi Community College** collected donations for the college food pantry. Known as the Tiger DEN (Delivering Every Need), the pantry is for anyone enrolled in classes at Northeast. Those who donated at least two items to the Tiger DEN during NLW received a free book.

The **Pearl Public Library** hosted Central Mississippi Regional Library System’s first ever Comic Con. CMRLS also had an event with author Michael F. Smith, and a story contest based on Ernest Hemingway.

The **Lamar County Library** held a contest for patrons to design bookmarks. The winning design was made into bookmarks that the Library uses all year, and all the finalists were honored at a reception.

**First Regional Library** also conducted a food drive during NLW. The idea started at the M.R. Davis Public Library in Southaven, and then the whole fourteen county system adopted the campaign, after approval from the Board of Trustees. For every can of food donated during NLW, \$1.00 was taken off that patron’s overdue fines, up to \$5.00. At the end of the week, thousands of cans of food were collected and then distributed to local food banks. FRL also conducted the annual Snapshot Day, capturing photos and quotes that will be used for advocacy all year.

**Rankin County School District** had a daily library related trivia contest, with the winners receiving gift cards. The students created book related posters and bookmarks, and Mark Cole, author of the Nine Realms trilogy, came to speak to students.

The **Yalobusha County Library System** launched a new program called TAKE A LOOK! READ A BOOK! This program was developed by Oakland Public Library Branch Librarian Gretchen Tumelson and makes books and reading materials available to underserved children in



*Some of the 400 food items collected at the M.R. Davis Public Library in Southaven. Photo credit Linda Willis*

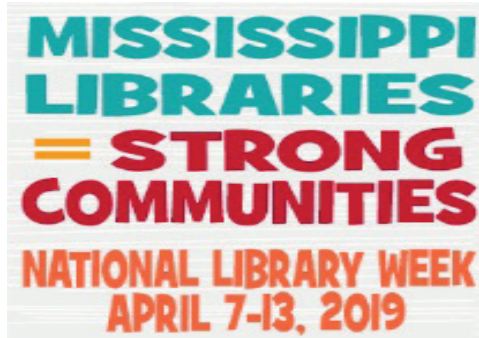


*Tiger DEN pantry donations Photo credit Sherita Taylor*



*Gretchen Tumelson, Yalobusha County Library System. Photo credit Patty M. Bailey*





area clinics and laundromats.

**Alex Watson**, Research & Instruction Librarian at the University of Mississippi, created a set of library week posters which were then shared throughout the state.

The **Bolivar County Library System** had several programs during NLW, but Mrs. Bobbie Matheny, Youth Services Librarian, reports that the all-ages Four O'Clock Storyhour was the most successful. "This special Storyhour opened an avenue that I never imagined," she said. "I was very surprised to see teens volunteer to read to a group, which took not only courage, but also a sense of security within our library."

The **Ridgeland Branch of Holmes Community College** had community puzzles and games, team building activities, and a "What Community Means to Me" craft project.

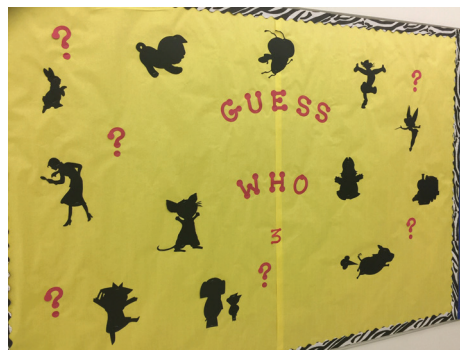
The **Waynesboro-Wayne County Library** hosted a World War I exhibit from the Gilder Lehrman Institute



*Four O'Clock Storyhour*  
Photo credit Tamara D. Blackwell

of American History. The Library paired the exhibit with a display of Mississippi Service Cards of those who were from Wayne County.

The **Library of Hattiesburg, Petal, and Forrest County** had several activities during NLW, including a special type of Scavenger Hunt, hosted by The Children's Department. Children's book characters



*Story character scavenger hunt*  
Photo credit Christina Keiper



*Writer's Reception*  
Photo credit Christina Keiper

displayed as silhouettes on a bulletin board drew attention from all ages as they tried to guess the characters and win prizes.

The Library also hosted a Writer's Reception. Five local authors shared their books and stories. "There is a lot of talent around us," said Christina Keiper, Associate Director. "It was a wonderful opportunity to let their voices be heard."

**Hulen Bivins**, Executive Director of the Mississippi Library Commission, toured libraries all around the state during National Library Week. Here he is pictured at the B.J. Chain Public Library in Olive Branch with the Mississippi mural, which was made from recycled plastic by local high school artists.

Congratulations to all of these libraries, and all the others in Mississippi, who made National Library Week 2019 a success. Here's to next year!



*Mississippi mural*  
Photo credit David Brown

# SLIS Notes

**Teresa S. Welsh**

*Professor and Director*

*School of Library and Information Science  
The University of Southern Mississippi*

Greetings, dear scholars. As some of you may have heard, the Southern Miss School of Library and Information Science has relocated from the second floor of Cook Library to the first floor of historic Fritzsche Gibbs Hall, strategically located on campus between Cook Library and McCain Library and Archives. As part of the University reorganization, every school in the College of Education and Human Sciences was relocated this summer, which was quite a logistical challenge, and caused us to consider how to maximize our new space for comfort and for efficiency.

## OFFICE DESIGN AND PLANNING

The College contracted a professional planner who worked with the schools' faculty and staff to identify each piece of furniture that was to be moved and then to produce a floor plan that included furniture placement in the new location. The planner taught us basic safety principles that everyone should take into consideration with office furniture placement:

- Only include furniture that is necessary to function efficiently; if electronic records are kept on a secure server, the corresponding paper records could be shredded and important or historic materials archived, which would greatly reduce the number of file cabinets.
- Allow 36" walking space around



*Fritzsche Gibbs Hall*

furniture

- Each office should include some basic items, which for us was a desk with file drawers, comfortable desk chair, bookcase(s), and one or two guest chairs.
- Place desks so one can see who is entering the door, ideally a bit to the side and at right angles to the door.

Some space planners follow principles of feng shui to increase positive energy and productivity, which include:

- Place desk in a commanding position so you can see who comes and goes into your office
- Color is important: white or pastels help stimulate creativity; soft earth tones can reduce stress
- Plants oxygenate a room; particularly useful plants are those with rounded leaves or purple or red flowers
- Lighting is important and soft natural light is best. Avoid fluorescent bulbs if possible or if not possible, supplement with table lamps
- Avoid clutter but do hang art that is inspirational.

For more tips about how to feng shui your office, see:

- <https://www.thespruce.com/how-to-feng-shui-your->

[desk-4129191](https://www.thespruce.com/how-to-feng-shui-your-desk-4129191)

- <https://www.realsimple.com/home-organizing/decorating/decorating-tips-techniques/feng-shui-office-tips>

## DECLUTTERING

Clutter can increase stress and negative energy, so moving or reorganizing is an opportunity to evaluate each object in our spaces and de-clutter for greater efficiency and workflow.

- "How to Declutter Your Desk" by Stephen Schramm <https://today.duke.edu/2019/01/how-declutter-your-desk>
- Feng Shui Tips for Clearing Clutter offers some useful strategies <https://www.thespruce.com/feng-shui-tips-for-clearing-clutter-1275243>

Marie Kondo has some useful and inspiring YouTube videos:

- "How to Tidy Your Office Desk" <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UElNicTxomo>
- "Desk Decluttering with Marie Kondo" <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=srny58x95hw>

## LIBRARY AS PLACE

If you are planning an entire library or library area, there are free online articles related to the importance and efficiency of libraries:

- "Library as Place" by ALA (2005), <http://www.ala.org/tools/research/librariesmatter/key-terms/library-place>
- "Use of Library Space and the Library as Place" by Aabo and Audunson (2012), <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/>



[abs/pii/S0740818812000023](https://abs/pii/S0740818812000023)

• “Libraries at the Heart of Our Communities” by Senville (2009) <http://plannersweb.com/2009/07/libraries-at-the-heart-of-our-communities/>

## **LIBRARY SIGNAGE**

Even if a library has maximized the efficiency of their space, it is a waste of time if patrons are unable to find their way around, so effective welcoming, not punitive, signage is a vital element. Librarians are encouraged to use the information in the ALA SlideShare to do a sign audit and improve the quality and consistency of their library's signage.

• “Effective Library Signage: Tips, Tricks, & Best Practices” by Polgar (2018) <https://www.slideshare.net/ALATech-Source/effective-library-signage-tips-tricks-best-practices-july-2018>

Library as place is an area of study for SLIS Associate Professor Dr. Matthew Griffis and he occasionally teaches a special topics course on this topic. For more information about electives offered online each semester, contact [teresa.welsh@usm.edu](mailto:teresa.welsh@usm.edu)

[usm.edu](http://usm.edu).

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **LAMP**

If you are a school librarian attending the free Mississippi Library and Media Professionals (LAMP) workshops, September 9th -12th, in Oxford, Pearl, Hattiesburg, or Long Beach, stop by the Southern Miss SLIS booth to get some great USM swag, get the details on the 2020 Kaigler Children's Book Festival, grab a goodie from our treasure box, and register for a door prize. This year's door prize will be the same at each location and will include a Vera Bradley umbrella, a Peter Rabbit plush, a copy of the newest Dog Man: For Whom the Ball Rolls, a Captain Underpants cape and hypno ring, and a bag of goodies from Kwame Alexander's new imprint, Versify. We hope to see you there! For more information, see <https://www.lampworkshop.org>.

### **MLA**

If you are attending the Mississippi Library Association Conference, October 22 – 25, at the Westin in Jackson, you are invited to these

Southern Miss SLIS events:

Alums and supporters are invited to join SLIS faculty for a hot, delicious Alumni Breakfast, a ticketed event, 8am Wednesday morning in the Natchez I room.

Alumni, students, supporters and employers, SLIS wants to hear from you! At 8am Thursday morning, pick up your coffee and pastries in the pre-function area, then join the SLIS focus group in the Biloxi Room and share your ideas on improving library and information science education

All MLA conference attendees are invited to stop by the SLIS exhibit table, in the Exhibit Hall, open from noon on Wednesday to 3pm on Thursday, to pick up free Southern Miss swag and chat with SLIS faculty and staff.

Feedback and suggestions are welcome – send to [slis@usm.edu](mailto:slis@usm.edu) or [teresa.welsh@usm.edu](mailto:teresa.welsh@usm.edu)

Visit <http://www.usm.edu/sl原因> for additional information on the MLIS degree, archival certificate, youth services certificate, LIS undergraduate degree or minor. To request additional information, email [slis@usm.edu](mailto:slis@usm.edu) or call 601.266.4228.

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The logo for the Modern Language Association (MLA) is displayed in a large, dark blue, lowercase serif font.

**To join MLA, or to renew your membership:**

<http://misslib.org/membership>

**2019 MLA Executive Board Minutes:**

<http://misslib.org/page-1860516>



## News Briefs

**Carol Green**

*Interim Head of Technical Services  
University of Southern Mississippi*

### ONE BOOK ONE PASS 2019 COMMUNITY READING PROGRAM BOOK SELECTED

What if everyone in Pass Christian read the same book and then joined together to talk about it? That is the idea behind One Book, One Pass! We are pleased to announce that our 2019 selection is *The Soul of America: The Battle for Our Better Angels* by Pulitzer Prize-winning author and presidential scholar Jon Meacham.

Over the next 6 months, the community will be encouraged to read the book and engage in book discussions, panel discussions, documentary screenings and other programs that will culminate in the Author Presentation by Jon Meacham on Wednesday, October 9th at 7pm at the Randolph Center in Pass Christian (315 Clark Avenue).

In *The Soul of America*, Meacham helps us understand our present moment in American politics and life by looking back at critical times in our history when hope overcame division and fear.

Jon Meacham is the author of the *New York Times* best-sellers *Thomas Jefferson: The Art of Power*, *American Lion: Andrew Jackson in the White House*, *Franklin and Winston*, and *Destiny and Power: The American Odyssey of George Herbert Walker Bush*. He is a distinguished visiting professor at Vanderbilt University, a contributing writer for *The New York Times Book Review*, and a fellow of the Society of American Historians. Meacham lives in Nashville and in Sewanee with his wife and children.

If you have not already read the book, copies are available for check out at the Pass Christian Library or for purchase at Pass Christian Books. The author event with Jon Meacham is free and open to the public.

*Submitted by  
Wendy Allard  
Head Librarian  
Pass Christian Public Library*

### MISSISSIPPI UNIVERSITY FOR WOMEN - FANT MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Fant Memorial Library recently received major donations to add new technologies for the creation of a Digitization and Conservation Lab, an Archives Classroom, and a new student Seminar Room. The new additions will be open in Fall 2019.

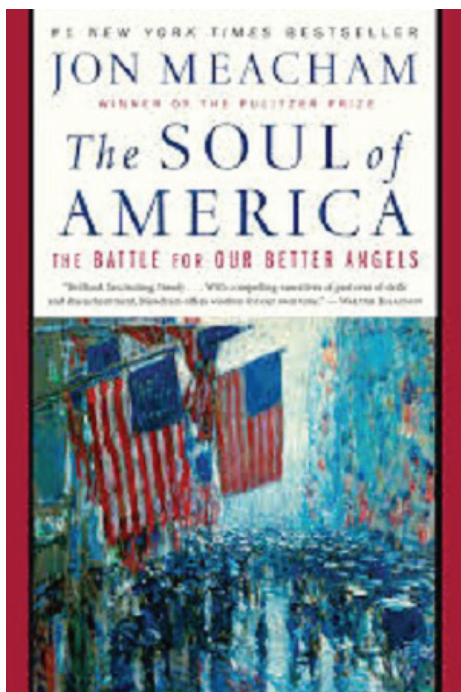
Also in Fall 2019, Fant will begin offering a Digital Studies Minor. Beginning with teaching Introduction to Digital Research (LIB 201), Undergraduate Research Coordinator and Instruction Librarian Hillary Richardson will be mentoring students through the interdisciplinary program, which will culminate in the Digital Studies Practicum (LIB 401). The students will rely heavily on the new Smith Papers donation of 4000 letters and 90 journals as part of the class this fall. Results will appear in the library's new Institutional Repository, Athena Commons.

*Submitted by  
Leah C. Newton  
Assistant to the Dean  
Fant Memorial Library*

### WAYNESBORO-WAYNE COUNTY LIBRARY RECEIVES AWARD

The Center for the Book at the Library of Congress has announced the Waynesboro-Wayne County Library's Laundry & Literacy Project has been selected as one of the State Literacy Award winners for 2019. The project was nominated by the Mississippi Library Commission (MLC), the state affiliate for the Center for the Book of the Library of Congress.

The ongoing literacy project is located in four laundromats. Every two weeks the library staff delivers fiction, non fiction, large print books, magazines, coloring books, crayons, flash cards, Spanish materials and crossword puzzle books to the laundromats so that area residents may read while they are doing their laundry and also take any of the



books home to keep and share with their families.

The Laundry & Literacy Project received a \$2,100 award. Library Director Patsy C. Brewer states that the funds from this award will be utilized to purchase “Little Free Libraries” to further advance literacy efforts in Wayne County.

The Library of Congress State Literacy Awards Program recognizes organizations or programs that have made outstanding and innovative contributions to promoting literacy and/or reading in the local community or state. This program is made possible through the generous support of David M. Rubenstein. Since 2013, the Library of Congress Literacy Awards Program has awarded \$1.4 million in prizes to 66 institutions in 30 countries.

Mississippi’s Center for the Book, housed at the Mississippi Library Commission, is devoted to promoting and exploring Mississippi’s rich literary heritage through statewide activities. For more information contact Mississippi Center for the Book Director Tracy Carr at [tcarr@mlc.lib.ms.us](mailto:tcarr@mlc.lib.ms.us).

For more information about the Laundry & Literacy Project, contact the library at (601) 735-2268 or by email at [wlib@wwcls.lib.ms.us](mailto:wlib@wwcls.lib.ms.us).

*Submitted by*  
Patsy C. Brewer  
Library Director  
Waynesboro-Wayne County Library

#### **COLUMBUS-LOWNDES PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM RECEIVES NEH GRANT**

The Columbus-Lowndes Public Library System received a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to go towards its

Local History Department. The project, titled “Focusing the Camera’s Lens: Assessing and Preserving Lowndes County, Mississippi’s Photographic History”, allows for a professional conservator to create a preservation assessment of the archives photographic collections, along with the purchase of some preservation supplies to rehouse them. The Endowment received 102 eligible applications; the budget allowed for 45 awards.

*Submitted by*  
Mona Vance-Ali  
Archivist  
Columbus-Lowndes Public Library System

#### **FIRST REGIONAL LIBRARY WORDS ON WHEELS BOOKWAGON**

After a short hiatus, First Regional Library’s Words on Wheels BookWagon will soon be back on the road.

An extension of FRL’s branches, the BookWagon offers a unique and free early literacy experience for preschool-age children in DeSoto, Lafayette, Panola, Tate and Tunica counties. Meredith Wulff took on the role of Regional Youth Specialist on May 1, 2019 and is the Words on Wheels visit coordinator and BookWagon driver. Children and their teachers and/or caregivers will board the BookWagon for engaging early literacy programming. Afterward, teachers and caregivers may check out age-appropriate books and other library materials as well as resources for parenting and teaching young children.

The regular service priorities are childcare centers in FRL’s service area, but the BookWagon will also appear at community events and library programs as availability

allows. Visits are requested via First Regional Library’s website. “Our communities have missed seeing the Words on Wheels BookWagon on the road,” said Wulff. “I’m so excited to bring early literacy and the love of books to the children in our area.”



*Meridith Wulff and the Words on Wheels BookWagon.*

*Photograph by David Brown*

*Submitted by*  
David Brown  
Brand & Marketing Strategist  
First Regional Library

#### **GUNTER LIBRARY SPONSORS PAINT THE CAN EVENT**

On July 5, Gunter Library at the University of Southern Mississippi Gulf Coast Research Laboratory (GCRL) in Ocean Springs sponsored a “Paint the Can” event for the students taking classes in the Summer Field Program. Six students participated. The cans are being placed at the Marine Education Center at Cedar Point and at the main GCRL campus located adjacent to East Beach. Students received participation awards including tee-shirts, visors, usb drives, and posters of Gulf of Mexico fishes. Partners for this event included: GCRL Physical Plant, City of Ocean Springs Public Works, Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Consortium, and East Beach



*Painted cans.*

*Photograph by Joyce M. Shaw*

Specialties. Gunter Library sponsored a similar event in July 2005, but those cans were washed away in Hurricane Katrina.

*Submitted by  
Joyce M. Shaw  
Head Librarian & Professor  
Gunter Library*



#### MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY'S DIGITAL COLLECTIONS

Mississippi State University Library's Digital Preservation and Access Unit is pleased to announce the following additions to our digital collections:

[Lincolniana Statuettes](#) (29 new items): These statuettes are comprised of painted plaster or bronze, depicting Lincoln in various stages of his life, as well as other Civil War era scenes.

[The Charles J. Faulk Jr. Collection](#) (1919 items): These are photographs taken and collected by Charles Johnson Faulk, Jr. (1915-1990), Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and executive editor of the *Vicksburg Evening Post* (Vicksburg, Mississippi). The photographs document numerous

significant events and aspects of civic life in and around Vicksburg, including parades, Pilgrimage, fairs, pageants, community theater, businesses and prominent citizens.

[Pamphlets from the Frank and Virginia Williams Collection of Lincolniana](#) (194 pamphlets): These contain hundreds of original political tracts, speeches, pamphlets, broadsides, and other printed works from the 1830s to the 1920s. Included are original printings of Abraham Lincoln speeches made in the Illinois House of Representatives, copies of the Lincoln/Douglas debates, General Orders issued during the Civil War, and Republican Party tract's organizing African American voters during Reconstruction.

[Dr. Todd A. Herring Collection](#) (23 items): Dr. Herring, a graduate of MSU, who began collecting historic material while in elementary school, and has donated a portion of his collection to Special Collections. The complex collection contains documents and artifacts on a wide variety of subjects including Early America and European manuscripts, early American newspapers, plantation culture in MS and LA, and records of enslaved persons.

[Stennis Weekly Radio Addresses](#) (303 items): Part of the CPRC, this new addition contains weekly Radio Addresses from the 1950-1970s, covering a wide range of political topics during Senator Stennis'

tenure.

[T.H. Smith Postal Collection](#) (3 items): Mr. Smith was an architect and amateur postal historian from Jackson, MS. These postcards, letters and other materials cover the history of the postal service in MS from statehood through 20th century.

[Rev. Kenneth Dean Collection](#) (6 items). These items were created by people living in COFO safehouses in Jackson between 1964 and 1968. They reflect numerous social movements happening at the time including Civil Rights activism, Vietnam War protests, and anti-poverty programs.

[2 new Cultural Conversations videos](#) featuring John Mitchell discussing the CAVS mixed reality lab and Charles Templeton discussing the Templeton Music Museum.

[Mega Resources](#) (12 items). Photographs from the 2019 Mega Resources School Librarian Workshop conducted by MSU libraries.

[Templeton Collection](#) (316 pieces of sheet music): From a recent donation by Chip Templeton. This collection now consists of almost 13,000 pieces of beautifully illustrated sheet music, many of which are in the public domain.

*Submitted by  
Jenifer Ishee  
Assistant Professor, Digital Archivist  
Mississippi State University*



# People in the News

## Carol Green

*Interim Head of Technical Services  
University of Southern Mississippi*

A retirement reception was held on August 25 in honor of **Lee Glass**, who is retiring after 29 years of service at the Jesse Yancy Memorial Library in Bruce.

Branch Manager Janice Vaughn states that Lee is an ICON for the library and they will surely miss her!



—♦—

## Dr. Jennifer Steele

joins the School of Library and Information Science faculty at The University of Southern Mississippi after having served as the Electronic Resources Librarian for three years at Mississippi College, located in Clinton, Mississippi. She received her Master of Library and Information Studies degree in 2013, followed by her Ph.D. in Communication and Information Sciences in 2017, both from The University of Alabama.

Dr. Steele's research focuses on censorship, information accessibility, and intellectual freedom. Her dissertation is titled *Censorship in Public Libraries: An Analysis Using Gatekeeping Theory*. Her research agenda also includes the role of academic libraries in online education, as well as the information literacy skills of first-year college students.

Dr. Steele is involved in multiple professional organizations, including the American Library Association (ALA), Association of College



and Research Libraries (ACRL), as well as the Association of Library and Information Science Education (ALISE), and has served on numerous committees in various leadership positions. As part of ALA, she currently serves on the Resolutions Committee, as well as the Rural, Native, and Tribal Libraries of All Kinds Committee. As part of ACRL, she currently serves as the Vice-Chair of the Standards Committee, and also is a member of the Professional Values Committee. As part of ALISE, she currently serves as the 2019-2020 Chair for the Connie Van Fleet Award for Research Excellence in Public Library Services to Adults Committee. Dr. Steele is also a member of the Beta Phi Mu International Library and Information Studies Honor Society.

Dr. Steele is thrilled to be joining the School of Library and Information Science faculty at The University of Southern Mississippi!

—♦—

News from Fant Memorial Library:

**Leah Newton**, Assistant to the Dean, joined Fant Memorial Library from Watkins, Ward and Stafford. She has a B.S. from Mississippi State University in Business Management with a minor in Marketing.

Graduate Studies Librarian / Assistant Professor **Elaine Walker** received her M.L.I.S. from The University of Southern Mississippi and joined Fant from the Art Institute of Chicago.

Public Services Library Associate **Victoria "Vic" Jones** has a Masters in History from University

of North Florida and is currently getting her M.L.I.S. at Southern Mississippi.

## Nichole Bonaventure-Larson

has been promoted to Collection Development Librarian / Assistant Professor. Most recently she was a Public Services Associate at Fant, and she received her M.L.I.S. from San Jose State University.

Public Services Library Associate **Rahmana Pittman** recently completed her J.D. at Mississippi College.

Public Services Library Associate **Whitney Baswell** was nominated to represent USMS in the ALA Student 2 Staff Program at ALA Annual 2019 in Washington, D.C.



*Back row, left to right: Leah Newton, Victoria Jones*

*Front row, left to right: Elaine Walker, Nichole Bonaventure-Larson, Rahmana Pittman*

—♦—

**Mary Ann Jones**, Associate Professor at MSU Libraries has transitioned serving as the Coordinator of Electronic Resources and Acquisitions to serving as the Scholarly Communication Coordinator. Mary Ann earned her M.L.I.S. from Florida State University in 2005 and a B.A. in Organizational Communication from the University of Central

Florida in 2001. Mary Ann has been involved in the MSU Libraries' Scholarly Communication initiative from its inception and has chaired two of the initiatives' committees, Institutional Repository and Open Access. Mary Ann will be the MSU Libraries' contact for all aspects of scholarly communication including copyright, open access, open data, open educational resources, ORCiD, and Scholars Junction, the MSU Institutional Repository.



**Corinne Kennedy**, the Humanities Librarian for MSU Libraries will be attending the Tenth International Conference on the Image in Manchester, England, held 5-6 September 2019, sponsored by The Image Research Network. Ms. Kennedy will be presenting in a themed session on Best Practices in the Visual Arts at this interdisciplinary research conference. The accepted presentation will address the vital importance of teaching those outside the design and arts fields the importance of giving proper credit regarding images. In addition to the acceptance of her presentation, the Conference on the Image granted her one of the Emerging Scholars Award, the only American to receive the award. The scholarship includes her conference fee, annual membership, and requires her to serve as a chairperson for themed panels. The focus of the conference this year is "Techno-storytelling: Past, Present, Future," with sub-themes including: The Form of the Image, Image

Work, and The Image in Society. The themes of the conference address the past, present, and future of a pictographic society. The presentation also has a possibility of its inclusion to the conference peer-reviewed journal.



Jenifer Ishee was recently appointed to the position of Digital Archivist and Coordinator of the Digital Preservation and Access Unit at MSU Library. She previously held the position of Manuscripts Librarian in MSU's Special Collections. Jenifer holds an M.A. in history from the University of Nebraska and an M.L.I.S. from Kent State University.



**Melody Dale**, Associate Professor at Mississippi State University, recently transitioned from the Coordinator of Old Main Academic Center/Education Librarian into the role of Education and Business Librarian at MSU Libraries. Melody received her M.L.I.S. from the University of Southern Mississippi in 2012 and her B.A. in English with a minor in General Business Administration from MSU in 2008. Melody started at MSU Libraries in 2010 and held various cataloging positions before transitioning into Public Services in 2017 as Education Librarian. Melody is now the Reference Librarian and Subject Specialist for all departments under the College of Education and College of Business.



**Cathy Dunn** has joined the Collection Management Services department at the MSU Libraries as Assistant Professor/Acquisitions Librarian. Cathy earned her M.A. in Information Science from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville in May 2019. She worked at the University of Memphis Libraries and at the Dixon Gallery & Gardens in Memphis, Tennessee while completing her graduate degree through distance education. She is an alumna of MSU, where she obtained her B.A. in English.



**Kate Gregory** has joined the Congressional and Political Research Center at the MSU Libraries as Assistant Professor/Political Papers Archivist. Kate earned her M.L.I.S. from the University of Alabama in August 2018 where she researched the life-cycle of born digital records. During graduate school, she worked as a Senior Library Associate in the MSU Libraries where she has been a staff member since 2015. She obtained her M.A. in English from MSU in 2011 and her B.A. in English from The University of Mississippi in 2008. In addition to her work in the MSU Libraries, Kate has worked as a freelance writer for The 'Sip Magazine, taught English at both MSU and East Mississippi Community College, and worked as a copyeditor for the Starkville Daily News.

# Book Reviews

**Michele Frasier-Robinson**

*Education and Human Sciences Librarian  
University of Southern Mississippi*

**Cuevas, John**

*Discovering Cat Island: Photographs and History*

Jackson: University Press of Mississippi, 2018. 174 pp. \$40 (hardcover)

*Discovering Cat Island* is a book that is so right in many ways. Author John Cuevas, a direct descendant of the family that owned the island for generations, provides a readable and well documented narrative that illuminates the offshore island, a dot of land that at times has seemed to inspire its own legends. Jason Taylor's artistic black-and-white photography is beautiful in its stark simplicity.

A general overview of the history of Cat Island, the families who lived there, and the parade of empires that claimed jurisdiction is given at the beginning of the book. This is followed by an outline map marked with 29 numbered historical sites. Each site has a short chapter that focuses on a topic such as wildlife, pirates, rumored buried treasure, murder, social life, crops, cattle, oil drilling, the Deepwater Horizon disaster, attempted commercial development, and the Gulf Islands National Seashore. A surprising bit of information is that fresh water lies just a foot under the sand on this island nine miles from the continent – a fresh water supply that supported human habitation, agriculture, and cattle.

The foreword was written by

Secretary of State Delbert Hosemann, who figures in the recent history of the island. The text and over 160 photographs are accompanied by captions, source notes, a bibliography, and a topical index. Overall, the presentation incorporates a beautiful, artistic design.

Several technical elements of design and production combined to lessen my enjoyment of *Discovering Cat Island* and are worth a brief mention. I found the font size of the text a little small for easiest use, combined with a text color not as dark as black. Photo captions are lighter gray and smaller than the narrative text, so they were distinguished from the narrative text but also a bit hard to read. Again, the black and white photography is beautiful, but so many photos were much the same (craggy trees, wind-swept beaches, etc.) and some did not seem to relate to their captions. Some photos in color would have been welcome.

Overall, this is a beautiful book that would be well placed in public libraries, local history collections, and in homes.

*Linda K. Ginn*

*Catalog Librarian (Special Collections)  
University of Southern Mississippi*



**Henry, Aaron and Constance Curry**

*Aaron Henry: The Fire Ever Burning*  
Jackson, Mississippi: University of Mississippi Press, 2018. 263 pp. (paperback)

Originally published in hardcover

in 2000, *Aaron Henry: The Fire Ever Burning* is the story of Dr. Aaron Henry. Henry was born to Mississippi sharecroppers in Coahoma County, Mississippi in 1922. He ultimately became a successful businessman, activist and politician. Henry served as Mississippi NAACP president and a leader of the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party. He also served in the Mississippi House of Representatives from 1979 until 1996. Henry's role as a leader in the civil rights movement did not receive the same attention as many of the other outspoken leaders in the movement during that time. This work brings to the forefront the many contributions of this unsung leader.

Constance Curry first met Aaron Henry in 1964. Over three decades later, friends of Henry contacted her to gauge her interest in telling his story. In December 1996, Henry and Curry decided to work on the book together. However, that same month Henry had a stroke. He passed away only five months later in 1997. Curry was left to tell his story. She effectively weaves information from her own personal interviews with Henry's story, which was primarily gleaned from interviews that historians Bill Silver and Henry Hurt conducted. Henry's oral history chronicles his life up to 1964.

Interviews that provide further insight into Henry's life are provided in the latter part of the work. Eight pages of photographs help to provide a glimpse into Henry's life. Photos of his Fourth Street Drug Store in Clarksdale, a sign that was



placed in the window of his home after it was firebombed in 1963, and a photo of Henry visiting the grave of Medgar Evers are just a few of the powerful images that help connect the reader with the work. Curry revised and restructured Henry's oral history and combined it with additional research and interviews. The result is a very well-organized work that allows Henry's voice to remain at the forefront. *Aaron Henry: The Fire Ever Burning* is recommended for public and academic libraries as well as collections that support Mississippi history and African American studies.

Chameka Robinson  
Head, Access Services  
UMMC Rowland Medical Library



**Mitchell, Alice R.**

*Scooter Mouse and the Teddy Bears*  
Magnolia, Mississippi: Magnolia  
Gazette Publishing Corporation,  
2018. 32 pp. \$20 (hardcover)

Step into the world of librarian, Miss Mattie and her tiny library friend, Scooter Mouse, who putters around the library on his tiny red scooter, usually at night, when the library is closed and quiet. Scooter Mouse must share the library one Friday night with teddy bears of all shapes, sizes, colors and ages. The children come to the library on Friday afternoon for snacks and a maker activity of crafting teddy bear slumber mats. The children wonder if Scooter Mouse will stay in his hole, decorated with tea boxes, umbrella toothpicks, and other small comforts or will he come out to play with his library guests. That night, the adventure begins for the bears

and Scooter Mouse, ending only when Miss Mattie arrives in the morning! When the children arrive for breakfast at the library, not every bear is exactly as they left them on the construction paper mats.

This is the first of the Scooter Mouse series dedicated to real life children's librarian, Mattie Rials. This colorfully illustrated children's book is based on a teddy bear poster Mitchell saw hanging in a library. Sheryl K. Perry's watercolor pictures will grab the attention of young children, school age readers and adults alike. Scooter Mouse, or a part of his body, is painted somewhere within each watercolor and children may enjoy finding him each time the page turns. Mitchell's variations on font choice, size and color add to the story, such as using an old English type of font to describe "old" teddy bears and a taller font, when describing big bears. Younger children may benefit from seeing the larger font or the different colored font to understand the terms, while school age readers will probably make these connections, which adds to the overall strength of the book and its story. Single pictures of a cookie or a crawling teddy bear will appeal to preschool children, as they will most likely be able to identify these items.

It comes as no surprise that Mitchell has over two decades of experience as a teacher. She tells a real story about public librarians and outreach programs. Scooter Mouse is well known and loved already in one Mississippi library. Now in book form, this story encourages children in numerous areas to learn about public libraries, and to participate in activity programs. Mitchell's

story reminds parents about library activities often offered in similar fashion by public libraries around the world, and in many cases, one is right around the corner.

All proceeds from *Scooter Mouse and the Teddy Bears* benefit the Miss Mattie Foundation, an organization providing college scholarships to Mississippi high school students in Pike, Amite and Waltham counties. Overall, children and adults will equally appreciate the plot, how libraries are represented, and will most likely read this terrific little gem again and again.

Jamie Stanfield  
Science, Nursing and Health Librarian  
University of Southern Mississippi



**Owens, Elaine and James T. Campbell**

*Mississippi Witness: The Photographs of Florence Mars*  
Jackson: University Press of Mississippi, 2019. 144 pp. \$40 (hardcover)

In June 1964, the Ku Klux Klan murdered three young civil rights activists in Neshoba County, Mississippi. These three men were attempting to assist African Americans to register to vote. This crime shook the nation and led to a full FBI investigation. Only a few white Mississippians at the time spoke out against this horrendous crime. One of these individuals was fourth generation Neshoban, Florence Mars. Mars was a member a well-known and affluent family that owned thousands of acres of land in the area. Despite her social status, Mars was heroic in her cooperation with the FBI in which she provided information about her community and Klan activity in

particular. In 1977, Mars published a memoir about these events called *Witness in Philadelphia*. The book became a time-honored depiction of the civil rights era in the South.

Florence Mars was also a photographer. She began taking photographs as a way to document the racial discrimination that she saw daily. Most of the photographs in *Mississippi Witness: The Photographs of Florence Mars* were taken between 1954 and 1964. Mars particularly enjoyed taking photographs of subtle moments that depict the different worlds of African American and white Mississippians under the fading Jim Crow laws. In the book's in-depth introduction, written by Stanford professor, James T. Campbell, we learn more about why and how Mars saw life through the lens of a camera.

Some may compare Mars' photography to that of Eudora Welty, a great photographer in her own right. They were both taking photographs of African Americans in their daily life, but in completely different political and social realms. There is one photo in particular that strikes a strong resemblance to a Welty photograph that was taken some twenty years before: Welty's photo shows two women in white dresses crossing the street (taken from behind). Mars took a similar shot; however, it is one woman crossing a street with a completely different feel and look (and with her face partly to the camera). Mars then took a posed shot of the same woman. Mars often shared her photographs with her subjects. She sometimes photographed them as they looked at the pictures of themselves. The photos of someone

seeing their own image is poignant and long-lasting. It is noted that Mars only remembers one occasion in Mississippi where she was prevented from taking a photograph. As she was attempting to take a photo of an elderly black woman on the porch of a tenant's shack on a farm, the white landowner became furious and stopped her. How interesting that the subject of the photograph did not appear to object.

Florence Mars passed away in 2006. She left us a legacy of photographic history that no one will be able to forget. This book is recommended for public and academic libraries, especially those with Mississippi history collections.

Shellie Zeigler  
Library Consultant  
Mississippi Library Commission